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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-186 *26 September 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin-'Arafat Meeting Termed 'Positive'

TA2509122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat met this morning at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza and discussed a wide range of issues, including elections in the territories, finance from donor states, spreading autonomy in the West Bank, and arrangements at the border crossings. [passage omitted]

More details on the Rabin-'Arafat meeting from reporter Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] The ongoing attacks against Israelis, including this morning's stabbing at Neve Deqalim, were at the heart of this meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat, the meeting which ended just over an hour ago. Prime Minister Rabin raised the issue, citing the attack this morning and the murder of an Ashdod woman last week. He said the prevention of terror attacks is for Israel one of the most important elements in the agreement with the Palestinians. The PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, in his opening remarks, condemned terrorism in general terms. Later, 'Arafat said the attacks against Israelis were in essence attacks against the peace process.

['Arafat] You know that there are some problems in the two sides, and we are doing our best, as we have done in the past. We have promised to increase all our capability in this attitude because this is not only a challenge against us or against the Israeli side, this is a challenge against the peace process. These elements are trying to touch and to harm the peace process. We are completely against it and we promise in this friendship to do all our best to stop it.

[Gur-Arye] The two men, who met initially with aides and later alone, also discussed at length the Palestinian elections in the territories. The two sides are far apart on this issue, with the Palestinians wanting elections in early November for a 100-member legislative body. Rabin said at the press conference that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators would begin discussions on the matter next week in Cairo.

[Rabin] We did not discuss dates, we discussed a date for the negotiation, and the date for negotiation is next Monday in Cairo. What will come out from the negotiations, it is only the future will tell. We are for elections, but elections which are related to the basis of the DOP [Declaration of Principles] and what will be the day after the elections. All these issues have to be agreed on. From my point of view, there is no certain date, but the date will be decided by the results of the negotiations.

[Gur-Arye] This is the first time in two months that the two men have met. The atmosphere at the last meeting in August was tense, in the words of Rabin's aide. Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid, who participated in the meeting today, described it as the most successful meeting, the most positive meeting ever held between them, conducted in a constructive and fruitful atmosphere. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 25 September adds that Rabin and 'Arafat decided that "several days after the donor states agree to transfer funds to the autonomy, Israel will transfer health, welfare, tourism, and direct taxation to the Palestinian Authority. At the news conference, Rabin stressed the principle of reciprocity contained in the agreement."]

Yasir 'Arafat told reporters later in the morning that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was denying responsibility for this morning's attack on a Jewish settler. But earlier reports had said Hamas members had been claiming that the attack was timed to take place this morning in order to send a message to Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat that there is no place for Jewish settlements on Palestinian territory. Whoever may be responsible, whether Hamas or Islamic Jihad, or one of the opposition factions of the PLO, the attack can only add emphasis to Prime Minister Rabin's charges that 'Arafat and his people are not doing enough to stop Palestinian terrorism.

According to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] figures for the West Bank and Gaza Strip alone since the start of Palestinian autonomy in May, six Israeli civilians and six soldiers have been killed in terrorist attacks, and there have been 73 incidents involving the use of firearms against Israelis, and 33 cases of stabbings, including this morning's attack at Neve Deqalim.

PNA Member Views Meeting

NC2609085794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with PNA member Zakariya al-Agha in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Brothers: Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met at the Erez checkpoint yesterday. What happened during the meeting? Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, is now with us on a telephone line between Cairo and Gaza. First, we welcome him to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] One of the positive signs in the 'Arafat-Rabin summit yesterday was 'Arafat's memento to Rabin—a copy of the Old Testament. President 'Arafat also denounced the attack on an Israeli settler in Neve Deqalim. What did the Israeli delegation offer in return?

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[Al-Agha] I think this is nothing new in the Palestinian position. The Palestinian National Authority [PNA], headed by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], is committed to its agreements with the Israelis and is doing all it can to respect them. We always call on the other side to do the same. As regards the denunciation of the attack, it is part of the Palestinian commitments or obligations under the peace agreement between us. As for the gift, it was a gesture and a compliment by Abu-'Ammar on the occasion of the new Hebrew year. This reflected positively on the meeting. For the first time—and I attended earlier meetings—yesterday's meeting was characterized by frankness and calm and a cordial atmosphere. I can say that the Israeli position during the meeting was, for the first time, positive.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Agha, sources of the Voice of the Arabs in Gaza said that President 'Arafat looked very satisfied yesterday and that he described his meeting with Rabin as fruitful and constructive. Was there an agreement on the pending issues between the Palestinians and the Israelis, especially Palestinian elections?

[Al-Agha] There were, in fact, some positive signs in the Israeli position. Rabin said in the news conference—and he stressed this during the meeting—that the Israelis are committed to their agreements with the Palestinians, are committed to the elections, and have no interest in postponing them. The election committee will begin its work next week to reach agreement in this regard. Rabin also stressed that the Gaza-Jericho first agreement is a Gaza-Jericho first agreement, not a Gaza-Jericho first and last agreement, as some people claim. He also said that he is committed to extending the Palestinian authority to the rest of the West Bank. Another positive sign was setting next week as a date for the committees to start their work, and the agreement in principle between Rabin and the president—and this was Rabin's proposal—that after the committees end their work in Cairo and within a period of no more than one month, another summit will be held between the two leaders to evaluate the negotiations and resolve any pending issues.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Agha, how can the positive spirit that characterized the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting be used to formulate a methodical relationship between the PNA and the Rabin government?

[Al-Agha] We do not want to make predictions. It is true that the general atmosphere of the negotiations and Rabin's announcements were positive, but we want to see things on the ground. We want to see this positive atmosphere put into practice, whether through the negotiating committees or through the next Israeli positions. If this happens, it will mean progress in the Israeli position, and we hope progress will be made. We do not want to anticipate and prejudge things now.

[Al-Jundi] Israeli Prime Minister Rabin said in the joint news conference with President 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint that he supports Palestinian self-rule and seeks to expand its scope. He wondered, however, about the nature of the Palestinian elections.

[Al-Agha] The Declaration of Principles contains clauses about the elections. It is clear that these are general elections to elect a representative council with legislative as well as administrative powers. Perhaps there are differences now about the number of council members; the Palestinians are proposing 100 members. The conditions for the elections, such as redeploying the Israeli Army outside West Bank cities and villages, need to be negotiated, but the council and its powers and many other points about the elections are already decided by the agreement.

[Al-Jundi] We hope this positive atmosphere will continue to characterize Palestinian-Israeli meetings. We thank our guest, PNA member Zakariya al-Agha.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

Dead Sea Talks Postponed at Jordan's Request

TA2609083294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The Israeli-Jordanian peace talks, which were slated to resume in Jordan's Dead Sea Hotel this week, have been postponed until next month. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that Jordan requested this delay, saying that chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah, who is also Jordan's ambassador in Washington, must remain in the United States in order to prepare Crown Prince Hasan's visit. The talks will resume on 10 October. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports U.S. Plan Presented to Syria's al-Asad

JN2509173194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 29

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jerusalem—AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I and news agencies—U.S. envoy Dennis Ross held three meetings in Tel Aviv yesterday [21 September] with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He then left for Gaza where he met with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, concluding his visit to the region, including Syria and Israel.

Ross said there is a real gap between the two countries' positions, and that there are differences on several points. He emphasized that the talks are proceeding in the right direction. Israeli officials said Ross is seeking to arrange an open meeting between Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in New York next month.

AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that in his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus the day before yesterday Ross presented a new U.S. plan that includes the signing of a peace agreement between Damascus and Tel Aviv within six months, and withdrawal from the Golan on two stages; the first begins

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immediately with the agreement, and the second ends after 27 months. It calls for deploying foreign forces in the Golan for six years and normalizing relations in three stages.

It also calls for open meetings between ranking officials of the two countries, beginning with the meeting between al-Shar' and Peres next month. Ross is due to leave Israel for home today.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I, Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo said a message received by the [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry from the Egyptian embassy in Damascus revealed the new U.S. proposals that Ross presented to President al-Asad the day before yesterday. The sources said the proposals are viewed as an integrated U.S. plan to achieve comprehensive peace on the Syrian-Israeli track on four axes.

The first axis includes the possibility of signing a peace agreement between Damascus and Tel Aviv within six months. The first phase of withdrawal should begin on the third day after the agreement is signed and should include 50 percent of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The second axis calls for implementing the second stage of withdrawal after 27 months, and the deployment of foreign U.S. and European peace-keeping forces in the Golan for six years.

The third axis calls for inviting the Syrian and Israeli sides to hold open meetings of Israeli and Syrian officials before the signing of the declaration of principles. These meetings should be between ranking Syrian officials, such as President al-Asad's aides and his deputies and leading figures in Rabin's government.

The U.S. plan says the first meeting will be a high-level one between foreign ministers of the two countries in New York in October to discuss important points of disagreement.

The sources said Ross emphasized the need to hold this meeting, while President al-Asad demanded strong guarantees in order to realize the success expected from the meeting and to come out of it with specific practical results.

The last axis calls for normalization of relations between Syria and Israel on three stages. The first stage begins with the first phase of withdrawal, and will be a limited normalization that includes a limited diplomatic exchange. The second stage, after 15 months and before the second phase of withdrawal from the Golan, will include the exchange of ambassadors. The third stage of normalization will begin one year after withdrawal. These stages should be carried out without preconditions on the part of the two parties. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq Said Set To Meet Kuwaiti Demands

NC2209105794 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 22 (AFP)—Iraq is ready to satisfy Kuwaiti demands in exchange for an end to the end to the four-year-old UN embargo, a senior Egyptian official said in a report published Thursday [22 September].

'Usamah al-Baz, political advisor to President Husni Mubarak, said Iraq was "completely disposed" to meet the three conditions set by Kuwait, according to the opposition daily AL-WAFD.

The conditions are an unequivocal recognition of the state of Kuwait and the post-war border between the two countries laid down by the United Nations, and a solution to Kuwaitis missing in Iraq, he added.

Iraq "wants to know the international community's final demands for lifting the sanctions," he told a meeting of lecturers at Alexandria University in northern Egypt.

"The sanctions are destroying the Iraqi people and Egypt cannot adopt a hostile stance towards our brother people."

Mubarak, meanwhile, told the daily AL-AHRAM "that there was no hope in the near future of dealing with (Iraqi) President Saddam Husayn" within an Arab context.

"We don't trust him and none of the countries neighbouring Iraq have any trust in him," he said. "In saying that I am only recognising the reality. They (Iraqi leaders) shouldn't take my words as an attack on Iraq."

A crippling oil and trade embargo has been imposed on Baghdad since its tanks rolled into Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq was driven out of the country by a US-led coalition, including Egypt, in February 1991.

The Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH said Wednesday that Kuwait was to join Iraq on a panel of experts to investigate the fate of the Kuwaitis who went missing during the crisis.

The sub-committee proposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross is to start work soon and could lead to "eventual" visits to Iraq, the newspaper added.

Arab League Chief on Iraq, Lockerbie

NC2309212394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed his willingness to visit Baghdad if he is guaranteed positive results leading to Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, demarcation of borders, and the release of prisoners.

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In an interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM to be published Saturday, he said it is in Iraq's interest to implement the Security Council and international legitimacy resolutions so that the embargo against it can be lifted as soon as possible.

He affirmed the need for an Arab summit as the only way to achieve Arab reconciliation. He noted that holding an Arab summit will remain the responsibility of Arab leaders not the Arab League secretary general and affirmed his readiness for any move leading to a successful summit.

He said he has received a message from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi containing a call for an Arab summit to clear Arab air and added that he will send a reply.

'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the need for Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and rejected the principle of referendum on withdrawal, describing such a referendum as illegal because the Golan is an occupied land and Syria has the right to recover it all.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's rejection of the International Atomic Energy Agency's supervision of nuclear weapons in the region and his call for supervision according to control regulations and under mutual bilateral oversight turn the situation upside down and cannot be implemented.

He affirmed the Arab League's readiness to contribute to solving the problem of Iran's occupation of Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates peacefully if possible. He expressed his hope that Iran will quickly cooperate with the United Arab Emirates and Arab countries to solve this issue peacefully.

Commenting on the Lockerbie crisis, he noted that Libya's stance is in line with international law and said that we cannot ask Libya for more than that. He said he will meet with the parties concerned with this crisis on the sidelines of the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Arab League Rejects Demand To Withdraw UN Resolutions

NC2509183094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Assistant Arab League Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran has stated that the Arab League does not agree to Israel's demand to withdraw the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue.

He said that the UN resolutions call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and condemn Israel's illegal actions. He added that it is regrettable that the United States has, on its part, also distributed a memorandum demanding the withdrawal of the UN resolutions. He said that there is no legal or political basis for this request.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 20 Sep

NC2309210794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. Writers Comment on ICPD
2. War Against Veil in Textbooks Condemned
3. Iranian Official Interviewed
4. Chief Editor Released

WRITERS COMMENT ON ICPD

AL-SHA'B writers continue to comment on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which convened in Cairo between 5 and 13 September. Chief Editor Majdi Husayn writes on pages 1 and 2 an approximately 3,000-word article entitled "The Real Victory Achieved at the Population Conference." Husayn begins by accusing government-controlled media of twisting the facts about the ICPD and brainwashing the people with a view to instilling certain ideas that conflict with reality, unlike the Labor Party paper, which treated the conference with the seriousness it deserves and exposed the Western colonialist strategy behind it. Outlining this population strategy, Husayn cites what he describes as a "confidential U.S. plan known as NSSM200," which he says was adopted by the U.S. National Security Council in 1974. He points out that the plan reflects ideas in the U.S. policies that do not change with the different administrations. The document starts by noting that the world population problem has become too serious to be solved by "voluntary measures" only. Accordingly, it names 13 countries, including Egypt and five other Islamic states, as primary targets for reduction in population. While the document recommends that U.S. aid be linked to population reduction, it warns that in such delicate relations, caution must be exercised to avoid being portrayed as a country that is using compulsory or coercive measures. In addition, birth control measures must not be portrayed as policies promoted by the industrial nations. Instead, the document adds, the developing nations must be persuaded to adopt the policies propagated by the rich nations. Husayn adds: "The issue, in brief, is that the poor, and not the poverty, must be eliminated by means of reducing their number." This is because eliminating poverty means that the developing nations will develop and, consequently, compete with the rich nations, which is not desirable, he adds. Noting that the ICPD has revealed an Islamic-Christian front against policies that are not in harmony with religion, Husayn adds that the conference has shattered the myth of Islamic-Christian struggle. Instead, it has become clear to everybody that "the struggle is between Islam and the materialist West;

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between religious people on one hand and materialists on the other." Concluding, Husayn writes that the real victory achieved at the conference was not the amendments introduced to the conference's document, though they were important, but the "mobilization of public opinion in our countries to declare that we are not a nation of sheep whose destiny is planned from abroad and who kneel down and surrender to what is being planned for us."

Muslim Brotherhood writer Ahmad al-Malat, commenting on the same topic in an approximately 2,000-word article on page 5, describes the ICPD as a "suspicious" conference that produced no good and much evil. He cites an article written in AL-SHA'B on 16 September 1994 by (Roget Garoudi), a French writer who converted to Islam, in which he dismisses the conference as a "ploy to consolidate exploitation." The French writer asks: "Why does the United States, which constitutes 5 percent of the world population, consume 25 percent of the world production of oil to meet its industrial needs and fill its engines, automobiles, and aircraft and yet seeks to seize by force oil resources in Mexico, the Gulf, Iraq, Nigeria, and Somalia?" Al-Malat answers: "It is human selfishness, which has become the law of the land for the people of the north, whose quest for desires has made them lose track of the teachings of Christ and who have become interested only in fulfilling their desires, even if they trample on the skulls of the poor of the south." Al-Malat adds that population increase, if managed properly, would not be an evil. He makes a number of recommendations to face the problem, including economic integration with Sudan, where vast areas of land are available for cultivation; payment of zakah, or alms, by the rich to the feed the "millions of poor" in Egypt; and employment by rich Arab and Islamic countries of millions of youngsters in poor Arab and Islamic states.

For his part, renowned Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, writing in his regular column on page 12, notes that there are high-sounding cries about sexual practices in the world. He offers a number of guidelines, in the name of Islam and "perhaps all heavenly messages," for a "more rational conference" to handle this issue. He points out that the human body is not the sole property of people to do as they wish with it, but belongs to God, who created it. Wedlock, he explains, is the "only acceptable" union between man and woman and, therefore, any other sexual relationship is sinful and rejected by religions. Al-Ghazali adds: "Under certain circumstances, it is permissible to space out pregnancies, at the discretion of the two spouses." He adds that the "creator of this earth has deposited in it resources sufficient to sustain its inhabitants, provided they cooperate in producing its riches." Accordingly, he adds, this earth could feed double its current population if sins and aggressions were to stop and peoples cooperated for the welfare of mankind. Al-Ghazali points out that the Cairo conference failed to mention a single word of denunciation against homosexuality and laws organizing it. Instead, it permitted sexual freedom and showed an "apparent desire" to reduce the population of the Third World and ensure a high standard of living for the "first world," which is now ruling the earth.

WAR AGAINST VEIL IN TEXTBOOKS CONDEMNED

In an approximately 800-word report on page 7, Khalid Yunus writes that the education minister has revealed his real feelings of "hostility to Islamic rites." As part of his campaign against the veil, he adds, he replaced the drawings of veiled women from some textbooks with drawings of women whose hair is not covered. The truth was revealed by the defense team before the court examining the minister's decision to ban girls from wearing the veil at school without their parents' permission. The lawyers told the court that a comparison of the 1993 and 1994 editions of textbooks for third graders has revealed that women were stripped of their veil in the new edition, to "remove from the minds of elementary school girls the picture of the veil." Lawyer Jawdah al-'Azab told the court that "the education minister's decision to standardize the school uniform has been issued by the Egyptian-American Committee for developing education." Yunus' report is accompanied by 10 illustrations showing how the drawings looked before and after the changes.

IRANIAN OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

Shaykh Mohamed 'Ali Taskheri, head of the Iranian delegation to the ICPD, is interviewed on page 3. In the approximately 4,000-word interview, Shaykh Taskheri discusses relations with Egypt, Iran's relations with the West, and the question of Salman Rushdie. On Iran's participation in the ICPD, Taskheri notes that Iran attended the conference to try to "benefit from the good points of strength that could serve humanity," such as the issue of migration and cooperation between governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and to "fill the points of disorder and weakness in the conference's document." He points out that relations between the Iranian and Egyptian peoples have never ceased, adding that political relations are affected by various political circumstances as well as the domestic policies of each country. Turning to the ICPD original draft document, he notes that it made no mention of religion and values because it reflects the West's materialist mind. He adds: "What I want to say is that we always suspect the intentions of the West, particularly the United States, which we believe is trying to establish an order that it refers to as a new world order while in reality is nothing but the order of a single power and an attempt to impose unilateral domination." Asked if Iran intends to reconsider the fatwa issued against author Salman Rushdie in light of the trend for openness with the West, Taskheri said that the "issue of Salman Rushdie is not one of freedom of thought, which we all believe in and which Islam endorses. But we are against freedom of insult and

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disregard for the people's sacred beliefs." He says: "He is an insect harmful to humanity, and this insect must be eliminated," adding that the fatwa is irreversible. Taskheri dismisses reports by observers that Iran is softening its positions. He adds that the criterion used for defining hardline and moderate policies is how close they get to serving the Western policies and interests. He adds: "If a country, a regime, or a movement comes closer to serving their Western interests, they call it moderate, and if it departs from their Western interests, they call it a hard liner."

CHIEF EDITOR RELEASED

An approximately 800-word, unattributed report on pages 1 and 7 states that Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the opposition paper AL-AHRAR, was released on Monday 19 September after "being kidnapped" on Sunday at the State Security Prosecution Department. The report notes that during his detention, Bakri was kept with thugs and criminals in a "filthy cell," where he heard the screams of people being tortured in a neighboring cell. Bakri was questioned for 11 hours, during which "false and cheap accusations" were made against him, including his ties to Libya, Sudan, and Yemen. Bakri said that the campaign against him seeks to undermine the national role played by AL-AHRAR with a view to appeasing some Arab regimes. He was later released on 5,000-pounds bail.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Rabin Hold Meeting at Erez Checkpoint

'Urayqat Previews Meeting

JN2409175194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[Excerpts] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has said President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tomorrow. The meeting is expected to be held at the Erez checkpoint. This follows the weekly meeting of members of the National Authority's Government in Gaza today under President Yasir 'Arafat.

The 'Arafat-Rabin meeting will tackle many issues. The most important are the elections and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the main topic to be discussed during President 'Arafat's meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin will be the full implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], and the conclusion of a final phased agreement on the issue of the elections and the redeployment of Israeli forces.

On the configuration of the Palestinian legislative council, Dr.'Urayqat said: We proposed to the Israelis that it be formed of 100 members.

He said the Palestinian election law is ready, and that it is based on majority rule, an open ticket, and constituencies with more than one seat. Dr. 'Urayqat stressed that the council will have legislative powers, as stipulated in the DOP.

Dr. 'Urayqat accused Israeli Prime Minister Rabin of obstructing and postponing the implementation of the agreement on holding the elections. [passage omitted]

To Discuss Redeployment

JN2309171394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of Palestine at noon today, an informed Palestinian source said intensive consultations are being held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to prepare for a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Arafat and Rabin will discuss a number of issues related to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, particularly the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the occupied territory, in preparation for the deployment of the Palestinian police forces and the holding of the legislative elections.

Talks Reported

JN2509170394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the National Authority, met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin near the Erez checkpoint this morning. The two sides discussed several issues, particularly the Palestinian legislative elections scheduled to be held early in November this year. Discussions also dealt with the issue of safe crossings between Gaza and Jericho, the border crossings, economic problems, and the release of detainees.

President 'Arafat and Rabin held a news conference at the end of the two-hour meeting. President 'Arafat emphasized the importance of holding elections on the set date. He called on the Israeli Government to release the detainees from Israeli jails, and for the return of the freed detainees who are in Jericho to their homes.

'Arafat said the atmosphere that permeated the meeting was calm and relaxed. He said the most important point revolved around the accurate and faithful implementation of the agreement. 'Arafat said he hopes just and comprehensive peace will be achieved throughout the region.

President 'Arafat said: There are actions that hamper the implementation of the agreement. He stressed that the

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two sides are genuinely interested in exerting all efforts to meticulously implement the agreement and establish peace.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin affirmed his country is committed to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: We discussed all pending matters and problems to solve them. He added that there is in place a responsible authority, the Palestinian Authority, and it is an unprecedented experience.

On elections, Rabin said Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on elections will begin in Cairo on Monday [26 September]. Rabin thanked President 'Arafat for the gift he presented to him during the meeting; an old copy of the Torah.

'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, said today's encounter comprised two meetings. President 'Arafat and Rabin met alone for approximately one-hour during which they discussed elections and the important and outstanding issues. Then the two delegations met. President Yasir 'Arafat led the Palestinian delegation and Yitzhaq Rabin led the Israeli delegation. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Ahmad Qura'y, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Zakariyah al-Agha, Jamil al-Tarifi, Amin al-Hindi, and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah. The meeting was attended on the Israeli side by Yosi Sarid, Dani Rothschild, (Yomatov Shamiyah), and 'Uzi Dayan.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, Abu-Rudaynah said the joint security committees on safe crossings and the Rafah and Allenby border crossings will meet next week. Abu-Rudaynah also said that President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin will hold a summit meeting next month.

Quray' Comments

JN2509203494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', PNA "minister of economy," by Ahmad Zaki on 25 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaki] You, as well as His Excellency President 'Arafat, took part in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Erez checkpoint today. Have you reached any agreement on holding legislative elections in Palestinian territory and redeploying the Israeli occupation army?

[Quray'] I view the meeting as one of the most successful ones ever held by the israeli prime minister and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed all obstacles preventing the implementation of the Declaration of Principles accord. Following the Gaza-and-Jericho agreement, a transitional agreement should have been reached. The two sides discussed these issues and reached an agreement on them all, including redeploying the Israeli forces, transferring authorities in the West Bank, holding elections, and dissolving the civil administration. All these issues make up the transitional agreement. Therefore, they were discussed, and the Israeli prime minister announced the Israeli Government's commitment to the Declaration of Principles accord. We view this as a positive step.

[Zaki] Have you set a date for implementing that?

[Quray'] Talks will be held by Israel and Palestine in Cairo next week to reach an agreement on elections, including the council, its nature, its makeup, its powers, and its responsibilities, as well as the post-election era.

[Zaki] Did you discuss the crossings issue and the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, and were there points of agreement during the meeting?

[Quray'] As you know, such meetings do not discuss issues in detail. The meeting raised these issues as well as the importance of reaching an agreement on them. A committee was formed, and it will meet next week to discuss the crossings issue, the international crossings, and safe passage between Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank. Even the prisoners issue, including the freed ones in Jericho and those who are still in Israeli prisons, was also discussed, and the two sides agreed to resume discussion of this issue next week.

[Zaki] Do you expect that the freed prisoners will return to their homes in the occupied Palestinian territories in the near future?

[Quray'] The Israeli Government has no strong reason or justification for keeping the prisoners in their prisons. Let us wait and see what next week's meetings will produce.

[Zaki] What issues did you discuss with the Israeli side regarding aid to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]?

[Quray'] The Israeli prime minister expressed concern with transferring aid to the PNA. He also voiced his concern about the absence of aid. A special committee of the major donor countries will meet in Washington next week. We hope it will succeed.

[Zaki] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], were other powers transferred to the PNA?

[Quray'] We are still discussing early empowerment. However, we also discussed the issue of settlement, and we voiced our deep concern about settlement, especially around Jerusalem. The Israeli prime minister stressed that the Israeli Government does not intend to build new settlements or confiscate territories. However, we have no doubt that there are still major violations as well as a terrible expansion of the existing settlement. This was reviewed during the meeting, and I hope it will be discussed fully in the near future.

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[Zaki] Let us return to the issue of the legislative elections. Did you discuss legislative elections in Jerusalem?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, because it is stipulated in the Declaration of Principles accord. Jerusalem residents will take part both as candidates and voters. There is no room at all for any one to go back on any point in the Declaration of Principles.

[Zaki] Some Israeli statements reject that.

[Quray'] They have no right to do that. No point in the Declaration of Principles should be renegotiated. However, details, rather than principles, can be negotiated.

[Zaki] Thank you Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the PNA.

'Arafat Chairs PNA Government Meeting

JN2409190494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] The cabinet of the [Palestinian] National Authority's [PNA] government held a weekly meeting today under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. Following the meeting, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidential council, made a statement to the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA.

He said: The cabinet discussed a number of agenda topics, including President 'Arafat's meeting with the Israeli prime minister tomorrow, Sunday. The cabinet attached special importance to this meeting due to the results it will yield on various levels.

The cabinet also discussed tax collection, the encroachments on public lands, banana marketing, the Islamic trusts' situation, the recent meetings with both Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP], the situation of the freed [Palestinians] who are currently in Jericho, and the situation of the nongovernmental organizations and societies.

The cabinet made several decisions on the topics listed on the agenda, such as completing the building of the tax system and calling on those who failed to pay taxes to pay their share. The cabinet also decided to set up a technical committee in order to design comprehensive tax laws, based on the economic agreement signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government and on the enacted laws and their necessary amendments.

The cabinet entrusted brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the Economic Committee in the Joint Palestinian-Israeli Committee, with receiving the database in its various forms, particularly the tax forms, from the Israeli side. The cabinet decided to complete the census in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within two weeks. It also decided that all Islamic trust employees in the West Bank and Gaza should be incorporated into the Palestinian Islamic Trusts. The authority will pay their wages and fulfill the commitments regarding all their rights.

Moreover, the cabinet decided to pay the Palestinian employees' salaries in the Jordanian Cooperative Organization. These salaries were suspended recently. The cabinet entrusted the labor and finance ministers with implementing this decision.

The cabinet attached special importance to the encroachments on public lands, and decided to continue the measures taken to prevent these encroachments. It also decided to issue instructions regarding the use of the seal within one week. The cabinet also attached special importance to the situation of the nongovernmental organizations and societies, and decided that they should document anew their members according to the enacted laws and regulations. This also applies to the firms registered as non-profit firms.

The cabinet studied the structural plan for the Gaza Strip prepared by the Israeli side, and decided His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat will set up a technical committee to study this plan and prepare the necessary recommendations in this regard.

His Excellency President 'Arafat briefed the cabinet on the positive outcome of his meetings with Hamas and the PFLP and on what these meetings will yield in terms of supporting and safeguarding national unity and achieving good for the Palestinian people.

The cabinet also discussed the steps achieved by the Palestinian side as a prelude to holding general elections. It took steps designed to facilitate the marketing of the Jericho area's bananas in the Gaza Strip. The cabinet took some steps regarding the freed persons now in Jericho.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Gulf Tour, 'Destructive' Policy

JN2609101294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 34

[Report on an interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by AL-RA'Y correspondent Dawud Almani in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palesatine [DFLP], has disclosed that he has initiated contacts with several Gulf countries to make a tour that will include the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and other capitals, which he did not specify.

Hawatimah said dialogue is under way between the DFLP and the brothers in the Gulf states. I hope the dialogue will get warmer, he said.

In an exclusive interview with AL-RA'Y, the DFLP secretary general accused PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of letting the Palestinian people down and reaching agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin

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behind their back. He said 'Arafat was pursuing a destructive policy against the Palestinian people, starting with his position on the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait and including his agreement with Yitzhaq Rabin.

Hawatimah added: Now that the political situation is clear, we must oppose everything that is going on. We are for normalizing Palestinian relations with all Arab states. We are eager to restore the brotherly ties between the DFLP and the Arabian Gulf countries. Hawatimah added that he will visit the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and other Gulf capitals for this purpose.

Hawatimah hoped that the inter-Palestinian and inter-Arab "gangrene" that resulted from the second Gulf war will be removed. [passage omitted]

Asked about the status of the Damascus-based Palestinian opposition in light of increased prospects for a Syrian-Israeli agreement, Hawatimah said: We are not worried about this because we are represented by the masses within the ranks of our people in the occupied territories and in the camps, as well as by the Palestinian communities in the diaspora. Those people reflect our presence and political struggle in the pan-Arab arena. If you are talking about some "logistical" facilities in Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Algiers, Libya, and Iraq, these are only administrative facilities, for example, having some offices whose role is very minor. This is why we are not worried about this issue.

Sha'th Arrives in Cairo, Views Australia Visit

NC2509084394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation and planning at the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Cairo from Australia this morning.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Sha'th said he visited Australia at the invitation of the Australian Government. He said he met the Australian head of state, foreign minister, minister of international cooperation, and parliament speaker and discussed with them Palestinian-Australian ties, Australian assistance to the Palestinians, prospects for increasing this assistance, as well as investment opportunities in the Palestinian territories. Sha'th pointed out that Australia is a major exporter of grain and meat.

The Palestinian official said he made an official request to the Australian Government to send a police force to participate in the international force monitoring the peace process. Their reply was positive but the issue requires a decision by the Australian Parliament, Sha'th added. He said he invited the Australian foreign minister to visit the Palestinian territories at the beginning of next year.

Islamic Jihad Calls For Release of 13 Militants

NC2409205494 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 24 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Islamic Jihad group on Saturday [24 September] called for the release of 13 of its members arrested by Palestinian police in September.

The hardline Palestinian group also accused PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat of trying to suppress opposition to the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord, which launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

"Is the primary aim of the president ('Arafat) to suppress the Islamic movement and consign its sons to prison?" the group said in a statement here.

"The insistence of the new authority on keeping 13 of our militants in prison for no reason is very serious and proves that this authority seeks to stifle voices opposed to the (Palestinian autonomy) accord with the Israelis.

"We will not submit to pressure or blackmail and will not stray from our objective, the liberation of Palestine."

Earlier this month Palestinian police released 45 militants from Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrested after the Jihad claimed the murder of an Israeli soldier at Gaza.

Police say ten Jihad activists and eight Democratic Front members are still in prison.

Said Detained by "Arafatists'

JN2509183494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Report on statement by Islamic Jihad; date not given]

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has issued a statement emphasizing that the 'Arafatist leadership is still detaining 13 mujahidin of its supporters, thus trying to silence the voices that reject the agreement on reaching a settlement with the Zionists.

The statement said the movement's detainees are suffering from hard circumstances in the 'Arafatist jails. They are denied any perquisites; little food is given to them; and lawyers and kinsfolk are prevented from visiting them. The statement added: Is this the main achievement of the 'Arafatists in terms of repressing the Islamic Movement and throwing its sons in jails? Is this sought by the United States and the enemy authorities in our homeland?

O masses of our Palestinian people: Your sons in the 'Arafatist authority's jails are suffering. Help them, so they can be freed. As for you, 'Arafatists, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine says it is not a laboratory for testing Rabin's orders and instructions, and that it will not remain silent about injustice and the aggression on its sons, which is encircling its presence.

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Concluding the statement, the movement said: We will not yield to the attempts at blackmailing our mujahidin. These attempts aim to divert our movement from its constants. Commitment to our principles, to our revolutionary policy, and to the liberation of Palestine will continue to be our clear objective, from which we will not depart regardless of sacrifices.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

Fatah Establishes Election Preparatory Committee

JN2509182894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The Supreme Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah has announced the formation of a preparatory committee for general elections in accordance with the decision adopted by the National Authority's Council of Ministers on this issue.

In a statement following its meeting today, the committee called on all political forces to participate in the elections, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive national dialogue among the various forces to formulate a national document that will set the objectives, tasks, and mechanisms, and to work for the return of the PLO cadres to the homeland.

The committee denounced Israel's procrastination and intentional delay in implementing the second part of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

'Extensive' Contacts Seek To Avoid Election Delay

JN2409084194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Palestinian sources told the Voice of Palestine this morning that the Palestinian leadership is holding extensive international contacts to avoid threats to the peace process resulting from Israel's attempts to delay the holding of elections in the Palestinian areas.

Within this context, President 'Arafat's media adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah declared that the president's efforts are centered on overcoming obstacles to holding the general elections, which were supposed to have taken place last July in accordance with PLO-Israeli agreements. He said that 'Arafat sent several letters to the states sponsoring the peace agreement, as well as the European states, during his recent meetings with ambassadors and consuls of these states.

Hamas Vows To Avoid Palestinian Bloodshed

NC2509202094 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 25 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) vowed to fight Israel and avoid Palestinian bloodshed a week after a Palestinian police officer was killed in a clash with the group's militants.

"HAMAS has given orders to its fighters...not to engage in battles with the Palestinian police, never to be the first to shoot even when faced with death, and to train their weapons against the Jews," the group said in a statement released overnight Saturday [24 September].

Police Lieutenant-Colonel Yusri al-Hams, 45, was killed during an attempt to arrest two wanted members of HAMAS's armed wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, at Rafah in the Gaza Strip on September 17. Two HAMAS activists were also wounded.

HAMAS said Palestinian police shot their own officer, while the police said the Islamic hardliners opened fire.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat later met with two leaders of the group, Mahmud al-Zahhar and Isma'il Haniyah in a bid to resolve differences.

"As for our relations with our people, it is one of understanding and negotiation," the HAMAS statement said.

"We will bear injustice and bitterness, even when we are imprisoned by our people, and we will be patient in the face of injuries and martyrdom" inflicted by the Palestinian police.

HAMAS, which opposed the PLO's autonomy deal agreed with Israel, and Palestinian authority officials have repeatedly said they want to avoid inter-Palestinian conflict.

Several crackdowns by the Palestinian police on HAMAS members after murders of Israelis have ended with the release of virtually all the suspects.

The HAMAS statement was issued before a Palestinian youth, described as a HAMAS member, was killed Sunday while trying to stab an Israeli settler in the Strip.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Sunday that HAMAS had denied responsibility for the attack. He said police would investigate, and promised Rabin he would fight terrorism.

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Algeria

Detained FIS Leaders Reportedly To Be Freed

NC2409160294 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 24 (AFP)—Algerian authorities have promised to release shortly two leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) under house arrest, their former co-detainees said in an interview published Saturday [24 September].

FIS president Abassi Madani and vice-president Ali Belhadj have been held under house arrest since September 13, when the authorities freed them from prison in a bid to promote talks on ending an extremist Moslem rebellion in the country. They were serving long sentences for endangering national security.

Three other FIS officials held with them but released unconditionally told the satirical weekly EL WAJ'H EL-AKHAR, "We asked the (Algerian) leadership for the (two men's) period under house arrest not to be long, and they promised it wouldn't be."

The three—Kamel Guemmazi, Abdelkader Omar and Noureddine Chigara—added that they themselves agreed to leave prison only after receiving this assurance and that they expected "the liberation of all (the extremist Moslem) detainees."

A leader of the Islamic Message Movement (MMI-Haras), Ahmed Kerfah, said he found Madani and Belhadj in "good health and spirits" during a recent visit with them.

Kerfah, who said the pair met with party leaders and other politicians every Wednesday, added that Madani and Belhadj were "determined to find solutions to the country's problems" if three conditions were met.

These were: "rehabilitation of the FIS, total freedom of movement" for themselves, and that the FIS's consultative council be allowed to meet "with all its members."

Rebah Kebir, head of the party's leadership in exile, meanwhile said FIS and its leaders "are now convinced of the need to work toward finding a solution" to the Algerian crisis.

Kebir, who made the comment in an interview with the Algerian daily AL-KHABAR, added that he believed it was impossible to stop the current violence without holding talks with armed groups.

Some 10,000 people have died in more than two and a half years of conflict which began after the military-backed government cancelled a second round of multi-party elections FIS was poised to win.

Meanwhile Algerian security forces said they had killed Si Abdallah, known as Abou Meriem, a member of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the man who claimed to have organized the kidnapping of three French diplomats on October 24.

He was killed Thursday at El Hadjeb, near the southern town of Biskra, the security forces said in a statement.

The suspect's signature appeared on a message given to one of the diplomats on October 31, warning foreigners to leave Algeria within a month or face "sudden death."

Armed men seized Michele Thevenot, her husband Jean-Claude, and Alain Fressier in their building's parking lot in central Algiers. They released them a week later.

FIS Leaders Ready To Participate in Dialogue

LD2409192394 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Abassi Madani, leader of the National Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria, and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, expressed their readiness to solve the Algerian crisis as soon as possible and their complete confidence in overcoming this crisis.

Madani and Belhadj affirmed their readiness to participate in the national dialogue rounds after the meeting of the front's Madjlis Echoura [consultative council], which is empowered with determining the shape of this participation. [passage omitted]

FIS Official Says GIA Lacks Direction

BR2309131994 Brussels LE SOIR in French 23 Sep 94 p 9

[Interview with Abou Oussama, member of the FIS foreign executive, by Baudouin Loos; place and date not given: "FIS: 'We Want to be Reunited'"—first paragraph is LE SOIR introduction]

[Text] Can the Algerians see an end to their torment? Is this Algeria, which steadfastly escapes from any simplistic cliches, ready to be reconciled with itself? It is doubtless much too early to answer these questions. However, the recent semi-freeing of Abasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, two main leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), have perhaps pushed the door open slightly even though the measure aroused the indignation of several "democrats." This is an interview with Abou Oussama, a member of the FIS foreign executive.

[Loos] Does the freeing of Messrs. Madani and Belhadj lay the way open to talks with the regime?

[Oussama] In view of a global and long-lasting solution to the crisis, our chouyoukh (leaders) have asked for all political detainees be freed, the possibility of holding talks with all political and armed sections of the FIS and other groups, such as the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and the end of blind repression. However, our leaders are unable to meet with anyone, even the press.

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[Loos] Has President Zeroual abandoned his condition that you renounce violence?

[Oussama] This is an abstract demagogic idea, since the government started the policy of blind violence, a fact which everyone has forgotten. In fact, the regime knows that its last chance to emerge with honor is to come to an agreement with the FIS and the other opposition parties.

[Loos] Elements in the legal opposition are afraid that the Army and the FIS do not want to come to a democratic agreement. They note, for example, that the barons of the regime barely seem concerned by the terrorists.

[Oussama] Resistance is concentrated against the authorities, the Army and the police force. However, we do not want the sudden collapse of the regime, that would be a catastrophe for everyone and the victory of chaos and extremism. However, we are categorical in that we refuse any compromise with people who are impoverishing and even massacring the population.

[Loos] The strategy of the armed groups, including the FIS, has not spared the intellectuals.

[Oussama] Killing civilians is not part of our strategy. However, there are those who have openly called for the Army to massacre the population and who are therefore indirectly responsible for the massacres. Those who oppose our ideology are not targets. Anyway, everyone is talking about the "lay" intellectuals who have been killed, and failing to mention the 20 or so intellectuals, teachers, doctors, engineers who were tortured to death. But then these were second class intellectuals because they were Islamic!

[Loos] What are relations like between the FIS and the GIA (the most violent group)?

[Oussama] These armed groups no longer have any direction. A small section of them (2 percent) are "ex-Afghans" who remember more about the war against the Soviet Union than they know about the FIS. Certain of the more radical elements in the FIS have teamed up with them. GIA recruitment has been assisted by the violence perpetrated by the state. For example, in Blida a few months ago 121 young people under 18 were led away and executed in cold blood. That incited the others to go underground. However, their strategy, such as attacks on schools, is not just unpopular but also runs counter to divine law.

[Loos] Does the FIS want to negotiate because it feels threatened by rise of the GIA?

[Oussama] We are not responsible for the situation. We are trying to push our project forward while keeping human losses to a minimum. In two out of three regions (the east and west) our military wing is well-structured (90 and 80 percent of armed groups) and we dominate those regions. However, the GIA controls the center region.

[Loos] Could you enforce a truce if one were agreed on?

[Oussama] If the regime shows that it really wants to put a stop to the violence, then our leaders would manage to convince about 80 percent of armed groups to respect the truce. Ali Belhadj, in particular, commands a lot of respect, even within the GIA. The residual violence would then be down to small groups which would quickly lose any logistic support from the population.

[Loos] Your enemies say: There must be no democracy for the enemies of democracy.

[Oussama] That is an accusation that is based on assumptions and not facts. What has the Army done? It canceled the elections and so suppressed democracy. After the repression of June 1991, we chose to wait for the elections six months later because we knew that the people were behind us. It is the "democrats" from the Democratic Constitutional Assembly and the former Communists who are now refusing to hold elections! We favor the multiparty system, freedom of expression, and human rights, without denying our Islamic values.

[Loos] What do you say to allay the fears of the besieged French speakers?

[Oussama] The law of the majority must be respected. We are not opposed to the French language, modernity, or cooperation with the West. You have to distinguish between French speakers and francophiles (who want to adopt a project dependent on France). As for our so-called "retrograde" values, such as banning coeducation and insisting on the wearing of the veil, if these values are demanded by 90 percent of the population (including women), I do not see why we should bow to the opinion of the remaining 10 percent.

Brahimi Appointed UN Envoy for Haiti

LD2409202694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi was appointed the UN representative for Haiti yesterday, succeeding the Argentine diplomat Dante Caputo, who resigned his post on Monday following the U.S. military intervention in Haiti.

Minister Supports Creation of Ethics Council

LD2509202894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The information law will be amended, laws on radio and television advertising and communication will be finalized, and a council for ethics and for a code of practice will be set up. These measures, which are expected to meet the country's new demands—economic, political, and social—were announced by Communications Minister Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni at a news conference at the Palais de la Culture today.

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The minister also announced a series of measures designed to renew, improve, and increase the equipment of TV channels and radio stations and that of the APS, as well as to stabilize the [word indistinct] financially and to refurbish them.

The communications minister supports the establishment of a council for ethics and for a code of practice. Mr. Zerhouni has a definition for it:

[Begin recording] [Zerhouni] The way we see it, it will not be a state institution, it will not be a tribunal, and it will not be a trade union either. It will not resemble the Higher Information Council which, as far as I am concerned should have been preserved, which would have meant that the law currently in force could have remained fair.

[Unidentified correspondent] How will this council work?

[Zerhouni] This institution will not be viable if preparatory work is not done in cooperation with valid representatives from the profession, that is to say, from a federation, a trade union, or trade unions, which would represent both editors on the one hand, and journalists on the other. The administration—the public authorities—must be able to have valid partners with whom they can work. This is all we are asking for.

We are not looking for any form of allegiance from the profession, not at all. We want to have valid representatives who could represent both editors and media professionals so that we can work together toward establishing the institutions and all the mechanisms needed to go forward, and so that we can endow Algeria with the press it deserves. [end recording]

At the very beginning of his news conference, Mr. Zerhouni paid homage to the memory of those who have died for their love of their profession—the aim of which is to inform—and he expressed his respect for those who continue to carry out their noble mission at a crucial time in our country.

Armed Islamic Group Personality Killed

LD2509131594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] In another statement, the security forces announced the killing of the terrorist Si Abdallah, alias Abou Meriam, on Friday [23 September] in the municipality of Hadjeb, in Biskra Province. This person had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the employees of the French General Consulate in Algiers on 24 October last year.

Si Abdallah, who was wanted by the security forces since 1992, was killed with another terrorist named Ahmed Abdesselam, a teacher of the Koran in the area. Following a tip-off from the public, the security forces immediately launched a search operation which enabled them to kill the two terrorists and recover two automatic pistols and a sawed-off shotgun.

FLN Activist Found 'Murdered'

LD2509170894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1600 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] An FLN [National Liberation Front] activist Djamel Azzeddine was found murdered last Thursday in the province of El Tarf. The victim was kidnapped last Tuesday outside his work place by a group of terrorists. On the other hand, and concerning the anti-terrorist fight, three of the four terrorists killed last Sunday by the forces of order in the province of Skikda have been identified as actively wanted terrorists. Besides, in Ain Defla, the security forces have killed the aide to terrorist Chakendi. The name of the killed terorist is Ali Ben Yahya Gouider, who is the son of a Harki [Algerians who had collaborated with the French colonial authorities] and was the author of all the tracts of the armed group called Katibat al-Mawt, the Phalange of Death.

Security Services Announce Further Killings

Photographer Found With Knife Wounds

LD2509181694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] We have just learned that the body of a photographer working for the National Agency of Film Actualities, Mr. Baroudi Mouloud, was found this morning near Tipaza, where he lived. The security forces also announced that he had been assassinated with a knife.

APS Journalist 'Assassinated'

LD2609103894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The security services announced today that APS journalist Smail Zbagdi was assassinated last night at Bachdjarah municipality in the capital. The victim, who was aged 56 years, was in a hired car when he was shot by an armed group. He died later at the Zmila hospital in El Harrach. [passage omitted]

Security Services Report 'Terrorist' Arrests

LD2409124194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] The security services today said in a statement that a citizen has arrested a terrorist in Tlemcen Province, after he attempted to assassinate him, and recovered a hunting rifle. The security services have also arrested a terrorist in Bordj Bou Arreridj Province, eliminated another in Biskra, and recovered firearms.

Security Forces Kill 30 'Terrorists' Between 19-23 Sep

LD2409202594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] A statement by the security services today said that security forces killed 30 terrorists between Monday

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and Thursday [19-23 September] in the provinces Blida, Tlemcen, Ain Defla, Batna, Tipaza, Tissemsilt, Guelma, Jijel, El Tarf, and Skikda.

A considerable quantity of various types of weapons were recovered.

Egypt

Official Says Asylum Possible for 'Exiled' Saddam

MM2309135494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs, has said that Egypt will not close its doors to President Saddam Husayn if he requests political asylum here. Addressing the teaching staff club at Alexandria University the day before yesterday, he added that "the Iraqi issue is thorny, and the Iraqi people will not be able to endure the sanctions. On the other hand, the Gulf states have a direct interest in the issue, and Kuwait in particular has three demands—recognition of sovereignty, border demarcation, and the release of POW's—before it will agree to the lifting of sanctions." [passage omitted]

On Egyptian-Iranian relations al-Baz said: "The problem began when Egypt offered the late shah of Iran asylum. Egypt will not close its doors to anyone seeking asylum. And, despite Egypt's position toward Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, if Saddam Husayn seeks asylum in Egypt, it will not close its doors to him." [passage omitted]

Criticizing the U.S. position on Haiti, al-Baz said: "It sets a precedent for a state to be invaded and have its internal affairs organized." He added: "We should not use two yardsticks. When the world talks about Haiti, why does it not look at what is happening in Bosnia?"

He said that Russia is supporting the Serbs..."while France is opposed to lifting the arms embargo against the Muslims on the pretext that that would further escalate the war."

Foreign Minister Comments on Various Issues

UN Debate, Peace, U.S. Ties

NC2509194794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in New York by Hamdi Jawhar in Cairo on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] [Jawhar] Minister Musa: Egypt made efforts yesterday to stand up to the Security Council resolution lifting some sanctions on the Republic of Serbia, in view of Serbia's continued aggressions. What are the latest efforts made by Egypt in this regard?

[Musa] Exactly what you have heard recently. We are against the resolution passed by the Security Council and do not agree with its goals and intents. This is because it gives a reward for nothing. The relations between the Bosnian Serbs and Belgrade still exist. The aid, assistance, and coordination continue. The monitors on the borders are insufficient and not qualified to conduct thorough monitoring of the borders between Bosnia and the Serbs. In addition, the Serbs have not yet recognized Bosnia, which is essential. This is because so long as the Republic of Serbia does not recognize the Republic of Bosnia, this means that Serbia is treating the conflict as a civil war and the territory as open territory. The Security Council and the countries that submitted this resolution failed to consider all these factors, which will lead to far-reaching dangers. Handling the Bosnian issue in this way amounts to outright negligence.

[Jawhar] The UN General Assembly will discuss Israel's request to withdraw some or all the resolutions related to the Palestinian issue from the UN agenda. At the same time, the United States has passed around a memorandum, along with the Israeli memorandum, backing Israel's request. Do you believe that withdrawing these resolutions at this particular time will serve the Arabs' legitimate rights and the negotiator...

[Musa, interrupting] No, no. Don't put it that way. The fact is that there are a number of resolutions that are no longer effective. However, some Arab states insisted on keeping them, such as the call for convening an international peace conference, the call for holding negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis, or the call on countries to sever relations with Israel. This latter resolution cannot be submitted, because simply it will not pass. However, some countries still want to keep it. The first two resolutions have become meaningless. So, there is a need—and this is not a new issue, as it came up in last year's session—to change and reconsider some of the resolutions in this context. We have no objection to this. We believe that if there are outdated resolutions, such as the one calling on the Arabs and Israelis to negotiate while they have already negotiated or the call for holding a peace conference which has already convened [sentence incomplete as heard]. As for the other resolutions, we told the Americans and the Israelis last year that there are resolutions that we believe must not be touched and we said that we will stand against them should they try to. For instance, the issue of Jerusalem, the refugees, the settlements, and the issue of the Golan, should Syria wish to maintain it, we will hold tight to all these issues, because they are yet to be discussed in the negotiations. As for the drafts that clearly will not pass, there is no need to keep them. Also, the other drafts that have become outdated and meaningless, there is no reason to repeat them. Why should we maintain resolutions or a

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certain language if they are no longer effective or practical? So with some sense we can see that some resolutions need not be resubmitted, but there are other resolutions that will never be surrendered.

[Jawhar] Such as the issues of Jerusalem and the settlements?

[Amr] We will adhere to them all.

[Jawhar] After his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that he approves of holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to expand the Palestinian authority. What is your comment on this stance and on Egypt's efforts to help the Palestinians recover their legitimate rights?

[Musa] The issue of elections is an important step and is considered a prelude to the second phase. We said that the first phase involves Gaza and Jericho. Now we are moving forward to cover the entire West Bank and Gaza through the election of Palestinian representatives to a council that will make certain laws on certain aspects in the West Bank and Gaza. This constitutes a promotion of and support for the Palestinian self-rule that will broaden its powers over the occupied territories in accordance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This is a very important step because the Palestinians will now begin to prepare for the final negotiations. When the elections are held they will be accompanied by redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank. They will withdraw from the Palestinian towns. The elections are also supposed to be accompanied by a complete transfer of power to the Palestinian administration on the West Bank and Gaza. Of course, the transfer of certain powers has already begun but this is supposed to be completed by the time of the elections. After two years, the negotiations for the final solution will begin.

[Jawhar] You have met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and your talks focused on advancing the negotiations on the Syrian track. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will visit New York on 6 October. Christopher will pay another visit to the Middle East in the second week of October. What is your view of these efforts? Do you expect the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track to make headway?

[Musa] Yes, I expect this of the current and future meetings.

[Jawhar] What about the results of your talks with Christopher?

[Musa] You will know the results after the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Washington and after Christopher's visit to the Middle East, and after the shuttle contacts he will make. We will try to help and discuss this issue. However, the main negotiations will take place between Syria and Israel. You will learn the results after these talks.

[Jawhar] What about the talks you held in Washington to strengthen ties between Egypt and the United States in various fields?

[Musa] In fact, these talks were important because they focused on the political and economic relations and touched on the peace process. We laid emphasis on the economic and political ties in line with Al Gore's initiative, which he presented to President Mubarak during his visit to Egypt. These discussions are continuing and technical delegations will exchange visits to study the details of this issue. We will continue our discussions. A joint committee will be formed to coordinate the growing economic ties between us and the United States in the fields of trade, investment, tourism, and other areas.

[Jawhar] We thank Your Excellency at the end of this interview and hope you will succeed in your efforts to serve Egypt and its people.

[Musa] Thank you.

Syrian-Israeli Track, Sudan

NC2409192994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the policies of the existing government in Sudan are not acceptable. However, he added that Egypt is not thinking of carrying out a military action against Sudan over the disputed border area of Hala'ib. Musa made these remarks to our Washington correspondent Hanan al-Badri. Musa spoke first about the progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace track:

[Being recording] [Musa] There are some new steps that will be taken. Syrian Foreign Minister Brother Faruq al-Shar' will be in Washington in early October to hold meetings with officials in the U.S. Administration. They will continue the discussion on the Syrian-Israeli track and how to take advanced steps in this regard. This will be followed by the return of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to the region. So, there is intensive activity in this regard which we expect will lead to specific results that will soon materialize in progress.

[Al-Badri] But do you believe that Syria is now ready to accept a written U.S. pledge of continued commitment to the peace process by offering Damascus economic and military aid?

[Musa] These are matters and details that the Syrians and the Americans could be asked about.

[Al-Badri] Some say that the obstacles facing the Palestinian self-rule authority are natural for the present stage. Do you think these obstacles will adversely affect the course of the Palestinian-Israeli talks?

[Musa] No, I do not think it will reach this point. Obstacles do indeed exist, but as you mentioned, they are natural. Thus, we must always explain that the

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obstacles and the obstructions are not the responsibility of the Palestinian side alone. We all have a responsibility to give impetus to this matter and help the Palestinian president and administration in this regard. This help does not mean financial aid from donor states alone. It must come from inside too. Israel, for instance, must ease things for the Palestinian administration and we must move from the present to the next stage quickly. Thus, we support Brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] demand and efforts to hold elections on the entire Palestinian territories quickly. [end recording]

Asked on the tense relations between Cairo and Khartoum, Musa pointed out that the political orientation of the Sudanese Government is not acceptable either to Egypt or the countries in the region. He added:

[Begin recording] [Musa] The relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples is such that dialogue can never stop and patience can never run out. Perhaps you remember what President Mubarak has repeatedly said: that we can never think of a collision or a war between Egypt and Sudan. [end recording]

Says Israel 'Rejected' Disarmament

NC2309150794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Ashraf Khalil]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has revealed that Israel rejected an Egyptian request for the removal of nuclear weapons from the Middle East and for turning the region into an area free from weapons of mass destruction.

Speaking at a joint Egyptian-Korean seminar two days ago, Sunday, [18 September], Musa said that he presented this request to Israel in his recent visit to Tel Aviv. The foreign minister deplored the Israeli Government's rejection of an idea that could benefit the nations of the region.

The foreign minister disclosed that Egypt wants to widen the scope of a treaty on the banning of weapons of mass destruction. Such a treaty, he stated, should provide appropriate security guarantees for countries that do not possess nuclear weapons.

Musa said that Egypt seeks to boost the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolution 255 of 1968 by inserting some binding measures concerning the removal of weapons of mass destruction. A major step in this direction, he added, would be a treaty banning nuclear testing.

It is worth noting that the Arab League Council concluded its 102nd session last week with a call on the UN Security Council to force Israel to sign the treaty on the non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons in the Middle East. The Arab League Council said that Arab countries will not endorse this treaty until Israel signs it.

Discusses Israel, Iraq, Iran

NC2409061394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt does not recognize any geographic, demographic, or legal change to the City of Jerusalem by Israel. He added that the city's status is thorny and still a subject for negotiations, and that this obliges Israel not to make any changes regarding the city.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published Saturday [24 September], Musa said the consolidation of peace and prosperity in the region depends on Israel solving outstanding problems on the basis of a complete withdrawal from the Syrian Golan, south Lebanon, and the rest of the Palestinian self-rule areas, so that the latter areas may become a state.

Musa called on Israel to understand the way decisions are made in Syria and not to claim that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is the only one who makes decisions. They should understand, he added, that there are various institutions, agencies, views, and public opinion that must be persuaded to change their stand.

The foreign minister emphasized that Egypt's stance on Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is firm: The Middle East cannot be renewed economically, culturally, and politically without providing the security represented by Israel's joining of the international nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

In response to a question on efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation, Musa told AL-AHRAM that reconciliation is inevitable and that problems concerning extremists' stands, border disputes, and the Iraq issue can be overcome. He added that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty is the real beginning and a fundamental condition for reconciliation.

On Egypt's view of the blockade imposed on Libya and Iraq, Musa said Egypt is working to halt the escalation of sanctions against Libya and reveal the truth in the Lockerbie issue through consultations and contacts with Western countries. As for Iraq, he added, the situation is different because the Security Council imposed specific sanctions against Baghdad and Baghdad must implement them, but the Iraqi people's suffering must end.

Touching on the Damascus Declaration, he noted that it has begun to strengthen somewhat because member countries have a new vision of the importance of this positive grouping. He added that the subject of discussion among the declaration's members will not be aid, but rather cooperation in areas such as trade, tourism, and production that provide wider opportunity for political and security cooperation.

Musa replied to a question on some people's charges that Egypt adopted a vague stance on the Yemeni war. He said Egypt from the beginning was against secession and war between the Yemeni people, was not prepared to

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stand by one Yemeni side against the other, and was not required to denounce the Yemeni Socialist Party or any other party. It was enough for us to reject the party's decision.

Answering a question on Egypt's initiatives to halt the current escalation of the situation between Morocco and Algeria, he said: I will discuss this issue during my forthcoming meetings with the two countries' foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings to contain the crisis.

Musa commented on Egypt's stance on Sudan, saying: I am still confident that relations between Egypt and Sudan need good intentions, not mediation. He added that he will discuss ties between the two countries with Sudan's foreign minister at their meeting on the sidelines of the UN session.

He emphasized that Egypt and Sudan should be two faces of one coin and said: For example, I was surprised when the Hala'ib issue was raised and they explained which borders they are talking about. Egypt's border should extend to Juba in southernmost Sudan, and Sudan's border must be Alexandria in northernmost Egypt. He added that the Sudanese should deal with the Egyptians as people, not with Egypt as a state.

He expressed regret at Sudanese acts toward Egyptians in Sudan, noting that Egypt contains four million Sudanese who live among the Egyptians with equality and without discrimination.

He said that the training of extremists in Sudan has been observed and known not only by Western countries, but also by Arab and Islamic countries. He added that there is growing evidence of the presence of training camps with and without the knowledge of the Sudanese Government. He said the presence of the international terrorist Carlos in Khartoum gives the definite impression that others might also be living there.

Replying to a question on Egyptian-Iranian relations, the foreign minister said Iran's stand toward Egypt is a double-standard that makes it difficult to reach an understanding and a firm agreement on Iran's proposals.

He emphasized that Iran has the right to agree on or oppose any view on the arrangements taking place in the region, but it has no right to tell an Arab or Islamic country how to govern itself and make its policy. He said that there should be a dialogue on contentious issues.

The foreign minister denied that Egyptian-Gulf relations play a role in causing Egyptian-Iranian tensions, noting that these ties are not directed against Iran. He called on Iran to reconsider some of its political acts that harm Egypt and the Gulf states.

U.S. 'Double Standards' on Nuclear Arms Criticized

NC2609090994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR criticizes the position of the United States, leader of what is now called the new world order, on various world issues, noting that a policy of double standards is being practiced.

The paper says in an editorial in today's issue that this policy appears clear in the position of the United States, the world's only power, toward North Korea's nuclear capability. While Washington is applying pressure to make North Korea subject its nuclear facilities to international inspection, it is not doing the same to Israel, which possesses nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction.

The paper says that President Husni Mubarak's call to free the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction could give the United States a strong excuse to amend its position on Israel's nuclear weapons so that the Middle East peace everyone is trying to establish can be based on strong and firm foundations.

The paper stresses that all world issues should be addressed using a single standard that treats all people equally.

Paper Cited Urging Military Intervention in Sudan

NC2509071394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The Egyptian Government newspaper [AKHBAR] AL-YAWM, which is published in Cairo, has called for an Egyptian military attack on Sudan. The newspaper wrote yesterday: Egypt should intervene militarily in Sudan in a way that is similar to the U.S. military intervention in Haiti. The newspaper accused Sudan of anti-Egyptian actions. Differences exist between Egypt and Sudan over the border area of Hala'ib.

1,220 'Militants' Said Arrested

NC2509084594 Paris AFP in English 2318 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, Sept 25 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have charged a total of 1,220 suspected Islamic militants in connection with 50 attacks committed by the fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, the AL-JUMHURIYAH daily reported Sunday [18 September].

The arrests were made following the shooting by the police here five month's ago of the head of the organisation's military wing, Tal'at Yasmin Hammam and the discovery of intelligence concerning its membership.

Also found in 45 separate caches were 50 explosive devices, a quantity of automatic weapons and 600,000 Egyptian pounds (180,000 dollars), the newspaper said.

The charges concerned attacks in seven different regions of Egypt, including bomb blasts at Cairo banks earlier this year.

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In another report, the governmental daily AL-AHRAM said Sunday that a suspected leader of the Islamic militant Al-Jihad group was arrested at the Egyptian-Libyan border.

Hisham Abazah, "one of the most dangerous fundamentalist leaders", was arrested at the border post of al-Sallum as he tried to return to Egypt from Libya, the newspaper said.

Abazah, who received military training in Afghanistan, was one of the leaders of Al-Jihad's military wing in the al-Sharqiyah region in northern Egypt, the paper said.

He set up a "terrorist group" in the region after meeting Algerian Islamic militants, AL-AHRAM said without giving a date for his visit to Algeria.

Abazah was also in contact with Al-Jihad's military leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, sentenced to death in his absence by an Egyptian court and currently sheltering in Switzerland, according to the report. [passage omitted]

Islamic Militant Prisoner Dies in Hospital

NC2409181094 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 24 (AFP)—An Islamic militant serving a five-year prison sentence died Saturday [24 September] from a liver complaint, police said here.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Darwish, 30, died at the Qasr al-'Aymi hospital where he had been taken for treatment, they said.

He was sentenced by a Cairo military court in 1993 in one of four trials of people in the military wing of the fundamentalist al-Jihad group, responsible notably for the 1981 assassination of former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat.

Group Urges End to 'Harrassment' of Journalists

NC2409155294 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 24 (AFP)—An international human rights group has urged President Husni Mubarak to end police harrassment of journalists in Egypt and to allow the distribution of his country's human rights record to the public.

In a letter addressed to Mubarak, obtained by AFP Saturday [24 September], the New York-based Human Rights Watch/Middle East expressed its concern at "actions by Egyptian authorities ...that further erode freedom of expression."

"Editors and journalists continue to be targeted by the security apparatus and detained and interrogated solely because they have articulated views or published information critical of the state," the letter added.

The group cited the cases earlier this month of Mustafa Bakri, editor of Al-Ahrar opposition daily, and Hamid Yasin, editor of opposition publication Land—The Peasants Voice.

Bakri was detained and interrogated for more than 30 hours on September 18 about articles Al-Ahrar ran opposing the UN world population conference, held in Cairo from September 5-13, and pieces attacking Egypt's allies Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in favor of Iraq and Iran.

Charges against Bakri included "disseminating false information and views encouraging sympathy with extremists" and publishing articles "with the intent to threaten general security and Egypt's relations with some Arab countries".

Yasin was arrested and imprisoned on September 1 over an article criticizing "national dialogue" between the ruling National Democratic Party and opposition parties at the beginning of the year.

Human Rights Watch/Middle East also said state security authorities "orally informed" Egypt's leading publishers Al-Akhbar and Akhbar al-Yawm not to distribute the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights 1993 report on Egypt.

"It appears that authorities may be unfolding a strategy to curtail the availability of information about human rights abuses to the Egyptian public," the letter said.

Al-Akhbar publishers told AFP the decision not to distribute the report was their own decision and denied state security involvement.

The human rights group urged Mubarak to release Yasin and drop charges against him and Bakri "relating to their professional work as editors."

It also urged an investigation into why the EOHR 1993 report was not distributed to the public.

'More Restrictions' on Opposition Press Reported

NC2309152294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] In an unprecedented move, the Higher Press Council [HPS] yesterday decided to impose more restrictions on the opposition press. Until now the authorities had not used the HPS to restrict press freedom.

The HPS approved a plan to close any newspaper that does not toe its party's line. However, the HPS did not specify which side will review the contents of the newspaper and make a comparison between these contents and the party's program and principles. Hence, this is considered blatant intervention in the internal affairs of the opposition parties.

The decision added more red tape to the request to obtain a license to issue a party newspaper. These require that:

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1. A statement must be supplied on the editorial and administrative structures of the newspaper.

2. A statement must be supplied on the newspaper's budget and sources of financing.

3. A statement must be supplied on the names of the chief editor and the responsible editors who will supervise the newspaper's sections with proof that they are all registered in the journalists association. The approval of their employers—if it exists—and copies of their contracts must also be supplied.

4. The party shall declare that the newspaper that it will issue will continue to express the party's views and principles. The party will not abandon this line and will not let the newspaper express the views of other quarters. The newspaper's main line must express the party's program and principles. If Article 15 of the parties law is violated, applicable legal measures will be taken.

As a consequence, new forms must be filled out instead of the current forms to obtain a license to issue a newspaper.

Regarding the new demands, they open the way for the HPS to reject some requests while in the past it endorsed such requests almost automatically. However, the main danger lies in the HPS' control over the opposition press and parties. This is a serious development. Unless all the national and democratic forces act to contain this trend, this will actually threaten press freedom, the only achievement in our 18-year-old lame democratic experience.

All the HPS members approved the decision except two. They are Mahmud al-Maraghi, chief editor of AL-'ARABI, and Majdi Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B.

'Fugitive Terrorist' Arrested on Border With Sudan

NC2309195294 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Fugitive terrorist 'Abd-al-Rahim Abu-Ghanimah fell into the hands of security authorities as he tried to infiltrate the country from Sudan. He was arrested on a mountainous road on the Egyptian-Sudanese border.

Investigations carried out by the Higher State Security Prosecution revealed that the terrorist acted as a link between terrorists inside and outside the country. The investigations also revealed that he managed to enter the country many times bringing orders from the leadership abroad to carry out terrorist acts.

Mauritania

Minister on Discovery of 'Clandestine' Groups

LD2509223394 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Excerpt] This evening, Interior, Post, and Telecommunication Minister Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah gave a statement to the national press in which he confirmed that the country has known of the establishment of clandestine alien organizations practicing their activities under the slogan of a call for Islam. He stressed that these organizations are working for the implementation of clear criminal plans, that they are strongly linked with some quarters abroad, and that they are exploiting the relief organizations residing in our country in order to obtain the revenues necessary for implementing their plans. The interior, post, and telecommunication minister emphasized that discovery recently took place of a contingent called the contingent of Mis'ab Bin 'Umayr, composed of 34 persons that used to carry out its training near Nouakchott.

Here is the statement by the interior, post, and telecommunication minister: [Begin Dah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens: Recently secret and alien organizations were established in our country, carrying out their activities under the slogan of calling for Islam. It should be known to you that a pretext such as this is no more than a means for disturbing security and stability in this country and bringing harm to its sovereignty. Muslim Mauritania, which remained throughout the ages and is still [words indistinct] God [word indistinct] knowledge and [words indistinct] the advocates of Islam to the neighboring regions [words indistinct] the belief and values of its people.

It has become certain to us today that these secret organizations are working according to obvious criminal plans and that they are strongly linked with some quarters abroad. It has also been established that they exploit the relief organizations residing in our country in order to obtain the necessary revenues for implementing their plans, ignoring the rights of the poor and needy who are more entitled to such assistance. These organizations [words indistinct] to the extent that made them stop the transfer of their financial revenues to the national banks. They began dealing with a number of usurpers abroad, providing them with their need for foreign currency in return for handing them the equivalent (?of the amount) in Mauritania.

While we denounce the behavior of these organizations, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the (?laws) [words indistinct], we would like to draw the attention of all the people to the danger of the current stage. These organizations have inaugurated a new method for spreading its malicious propaganda, as it resorted to the exploitation of the houses of God during prayer times and transformed these places into provocative political forums. Worshippers could no longer perform their prayers in the tranquil, calm, and serene atmosphere they have been used to. Such an act is rejected by all because it contravenes the teachings of the true Islamic religion and is a challenge to the feelings of the believers. These organizations continued to implement their criminal plan by making preparations for the murder of innocent Muslims and to spread fear in their hearts.

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Thus, recently we have witnessed the training of a contingent called the contingent of Mis'ab Bin 'Umayr, whose members amount to 34; the last training session of this contingent took place on 19 September, in the suburbs of the city of Nouakchott.

Although the available information relating to all aspects of this case have not been completed yet, it has been established that these organizations are striving to exploit some of the [word indistinct] in order to realize their wicked intentions. They secretly brainwash our children and bring them up to carry out acts of murder, sabotage, and perverted behavior. Each one of our people should shoulder his or her responsibility fully vis-a-vis his or her homeland, society, and family, and should be totally cautious and vigilant in order to undermine all the base attempts that are aimed at (?disuniting) our people and obliterating its identity and dominating it [word indistinct] and culturally, and ultimately to confiscate its freedom and independence.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Leaves for UNGA Session

AB2409164994 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 2000 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal has left for New York to take part in the proceedings of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA]. The minister, who is accompanied by a large delegation, will address the session. [passage omitted]

UFC Senator Gives Reasons for Leaving Party

AB2309182194 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] In Mauritania, the Union of Forces for Change [UFC], the leading opposition party, is still beset by problems. Unity has always been the party's strength but this has been shattered with the Kaedi mayor's defection. Tidiane Keita, the only senator from the opposition, has just left the party. In his view, his political group within the party is underrepresented in the organs appointed by the National Council. He gave Salem Mej Bour Salem the reasons for his departure.

[Begin recording] [Keita] There is a very deep split, and this is regrettable. As the party's only senator in parliament, it is my duty to try and bring the various groups together. We would like the UFC to be a party of hope with the principal objective of bringing about change in our country. The change has to be felt by the whole population.

[Salem] What are the major problems facing your party?

[Keita] The major problem facing our party is basically one of representation and balance. Our group, which is no longer an insignificant group within the UFC, is underrepresented. The realities in our region have not been taken into consideration. There was unanimity when it came to the municipal elections, and I think it is an important factor that cannot be overlooked. [end recording]

Morocco

Filali Briefs Industrialists on Economic Summit

LD2409130994 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sept.24 (MAP)—A ministerial delegation led by Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali held here Friday a working session with industrialists from the Moroccan private sector devoted to the participation of the sector in the economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa to be held in Casablanca.

Filali said on the occasion that the Moroccan private sector is called to play an active role in the conference. He called on the participants to identify the sectors likely to be the object of cooperation and partnership with the foreign private sector recalling that about 750 heads of foreign enterprises are to participate in the Casablanca conference.

Adviser to the sovereign for economic and financial affairs Andre Azoulay called on the representatives of the Moroccan private sector to identify the projects that can be submitted to the Casablanca conference and that are likely to attract foreign investors. The government and the private sector, he said, must cooperate to prepare the conference and derive the most benefits from it.

Delegates of the private sector expounded a number of proposals to enable the sector fully play its role in the conference and prospect partnership oiportunities with foreign peers.

Filali said at the end of the meeting that the holding of [words indistinct] in Morocco is a tribute to the vanguard role played by King Hassan II in the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Suspect in Hotel, Synagogue Attack Examined

LD2409132394 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] [dateline indistinct]—Investigating magistrate at the court of appeal in Fez examined Friday the case of Mustapha Sannoun arrested this September near El Jadida (200 km south of Rabat) and involved in the armed attacks perpetrated last August in Marrakesh and Fez.

Mustapha Sannoun belongs to the "Casablanca Group" together with Algerian Hamel Marzouk who was interrogated Thursday by the same magistrate.

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The court appointed two attorneys to defend Sannoun as he did not choose one [words indistinct]. The interrogation [words indistinct] taking place in the presence of two other lawyers who are defending members of the "Fez group" Abdessalam Guerouaz and Kamal Benakcha.

According to reliable sources, Hamel Merzouk confessed [words indistinct] charges against him. Merzouk was commissioned to attack a synagogue in Casablanca which did not take place and is involved in the attack on a hotel in Marrakesh in which two Spanish tourists were killed. Just before attacking the synagogue, Merzouk retracted and told "Rachid" who organized the attack that this operation would be a suicide in view of the tight security measures around the synagogue. [Words indistinct] filled by [words indistinct] his frustration by shooting a [words indistinct]

Minister Meets 'Defected' Polisario Members

LD2409130394 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 24 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of State for the Interior and Information Driss Basri held a meeting [words indistinct] of citizens, native of the southern provinces, who have recently defected the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] ranks and returned to the motherland, Morocco.

Basri conveyed to the group members the (?solicitude) and blessing [words indistinct] King Hassan II and informed them on the interest [words indistinct] government grants to the Sahrawis and to their issues.

The group members on their part asked Basri to convey to the sovereign their feelings of faithfulness and loyalty and voiced mobilization to defend the country's territorial integrity.

Tunisia

Exiled Islamic Movement Chief on Algeria, GIA

MM2609111794 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 10

[Interview with Ennahda Chairman Rachid Ghanouchi by Marc Roche in London; date not given—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] London—Rachid Ghanouchi, the founder in Tunisia of the underground Ennahda (Renaissance) Islamic movement, speaks about the recent events in Algeria. Sentenced to life imprisonment by the Tunisian military court in August 1982, he went into exile in 1989. When not allowed to settle in France, he set up his headquarters in London. Ghanouchi questions the motives of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and believes that Islamic fundamentalism is compatible with liberalism.

[Roche] How do you assess the release of the main leaders of the former Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)?

[Ghanouchi] This is an interesting development, which could be as significant as the coup against democracy was. We are certainly witnessing the beginning of a new stage in the most recent history of Algeria and the whole region. That being said, there should be other preconditions to make possible the continuation of this dialogue with the authorities, such as the release of the political prisoners, the lifting of the ban on the FIS, and the possibility for its leaders as a whole to study the new political order.

[Roche] Has not the GIA reiterated its opposition to any dialogue with the government?

[Ghanouchi] We could ask ourselves what this GIA's true identity is. In my opinion, there are other concealed forces which are manipulating this movement in order to present a poor image of the Islamic movement. We are opposed to any violence against innocent foreigners, whether it be on the part of the GIA or of others.

[Roche] How do you explain the current deterioration of relations with the fraternal Maghreb countries?

[Ghanouchi] How do you expect there to be a peaceful Maghreb with the violence there is in Algeria? The Moroccan Government has acknowledged that the recent attacks committed on its territory were organized by the Algerian intelligence services. The aim of this destabilization operation is to push Morocco into adopting the same anti-Islamic security measures already existing in Aigeria and Tunisia. The incipient relaxation which has occurred in Algeria could unblock the political deadlock in Tunisia. The Tunisian Government has no choice but to effect an opening toward the fundamentalists.

[Roche] Will not the secular democrats be the main losers of the future dialogue between the FIS and the government?

[Ghanouchi] Not at all. If the secular democrats succeed in convincing the majority of the people of the correctness of their ideas, they must be allowed to attain power. The Islamic systems currently existing in Sudan or Iran are just an instance of this doctrine. We are in favor of a democratic Islamic system, based on free elections. Economic and political liberalism can coexist very well with Islam.

World Bank Signs Loan Agreements

LD2309175994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Tunisia and the World Bank yesterday signed two loan agreements totalling $156.3 million. The first loan will finance a project to strengthen secondary school education, while the second will be used to finance a project to provide suitable drinking water. [passage omitted]

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Western Sahara

OAU Participation Delays Voter ID Process

LD2409163294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] The voter identification process for Saharans who are eligible to vote in the self-determination referendum that started 28 August 1994 will be stopped during the coming two days on the request of the Saharan observers. Details are with Louisa Hajd Mousa:

[Begin Mousa recording] The stopping of the process till Monday is due to queries raised by Saharan circles over the participation of observers from the Organization of African Unity [OAU] in the peace process, which is supervised by the United Nations following Morocco's refusal to let those African observers participate in this process. Sources close to the office of identification in Oucef camp said only two OAU observers attended—one in Tindouf and the other in Laayoune town.

Observers said the process of determining the identity of Saharan voters is progressing slowly, particularly in remote areas, because of a shortage of human and financial resources. The process, however, is progressing well inside the refugee camps.

On the Moroccan side, the process is taking place amid complete secrecy, according to a statement made by the Saharan information minister. The minister affirmed that Morocco had banned representatives of the international press from entering a number of Saharan areas occupied by Morocco. Furthermore, the same official said international observers were still delayed by Moroccan authorities in Rabat and Casablanca.

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Gulf States To Send 25 Officials to Tokyo Talks

NC2409161794 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 24 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states will send 25 ministers and officials along with 200 businessmen and bankers to discuss joint projects with Japan at a conference in Tokyo in November, officials said Saturday [24 September].

The November 7-9 conference will cover a possible economic pact sought by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to secure technology from Japan and get greater access to its market, the officials said.

"The talks will focus on laying a groundwork for an economic agreement that will help us acquire industrial technology and boost exports to Japan," a GCC official told AFP by telephone from his headquarters in Riyadh.

The GCC delegation will include four trade, economy and industry ministers, seven representatives from the GCC secretariat and 14 senior government officials. Japan will also be represented by its trade minister and senior officials as well as an equal number of businessmen.

The Kuwaiti-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), which is owned by the six GCC governments, will present a paper on investment in the region while other papers will cover obstacles blocking Gulf exports to Japan.

Japan is already a key importer from the GCC but the bulk of the imports are oil, gas and aluminium. GCC states have urged Japan to ease customs tariffs on other products like petrochemicals, cement, garments, food and chemicals.

The conference is part of the GCC's attempts to acquire technology from industrial powers through joint ventures with the aim of lessening reliance on oil, which still provides more than 80 percent of the group's income.

GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—have pumped nearly 37 billion dollars into non-oil industries, resulting in the creation of more than 5,500 projects employing 325,000 people.

The sector's share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) also surged to around 10 percent in 1992 from less than three percent in 1975 while industrial exports have exceeded 10 billion dollars per year.

But most of the industries have remained limited to light products and they still lag far behind the oil sector. In 1992, oil fetched 73 billion dollars, accounting for around 35 percent of the total GDP of 204 billion dollars.

GCC states will hold similar talks next year with their other economic partners, the United States and the European Union.

Officials said they believed the recent deal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would help the 13-year-old Gulf alliance find new market outlets for their petrochemicals and other products and at the same time encourage their partners to set up industrial projects in the region.

They noted the region is located in the heart of a vast consumer market of more than one billion people and industrial ventures are among the most profitable in the world given its abundant energy and cheap labour.

GCC states sit atop more than 460 billion barrels of oil, nearly 40 percent of the world's crude reserves. Their gas reserves of around 19 trillion cubic metres (633.3 trillion cubic feet) also form 15 percent of the world's.

Japan has remained the top economic partner of the GCC, with their two-way trade standing at nearly 34 billion dollars. It also gets from the region more than 60 percent of its oil imports of around 4.5 million barrels per day.

Gulf officials said they expected the Japanese side to raise the issue of stable, long-term crude supplies at the Tokyo conference, which also includes an exhibition of GCC industrial products.

Bahrain

Amir, Other Officials Receive U.S. Commander

JN2509084994 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Manama, Sep 24 (GNA)—His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and the Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of The Defence Force (BDF) Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah received here this morning the Commander in Chief of The U.S. Central Command, General J.H. Binford [Peay III] and his accompanying delegation, now visiting Bahrain.

H.H. the amir praised progress in relations between Bahrain and the United States, especially in the military fields.

The audience discussed a number of issues of mutual interest, the current developments in the region and other international issues.

On his part, General Binford hailed the two countries' keenness to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields and to strengthen security and stability in the region.

Present were the Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Minister of Defence and Deputy Commander in Chief of the BDF Lt. General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah and the U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain David Ransom.

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Kuwait

Naval Maneuvers With British-U.S. Forces Begin

LD2609093794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti, British, and U.S. naval forces today began four-day joint maneuvers code-named "Eager Sentry 3/94" in Kuwaiti territorial waters. Many military ships, jet aircraft, and helicopters from the three forces are taking part.

Air Force Colonel Musib Najm, director of moral guidance in the Kuwaiti army, said that the aim of the maneuvers is to raise the fighting capability of the Kuwaiti troops and to provide them with military experience, in addition to allowing friendly forces to acquaint themselves with conditions in the State of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti forces include the missile boat "Sanbuk", which carries French-made "MM" missiles, and F18 aircraft and helicopters. The British frigate "HMS Cornwall" and the U.S. frigate "Reid" are also taking part. [passage omitted]

Turkish President Notes Support for Stand on Iraq

LD2409013894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2005 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Istanbul, 23 Sep (KUNA)—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel today said that 60 million Turkish citizens were behind the State of Kuwait in its confrontation with the Iraqi regime.

Quoting President Demirel, Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saadoun said that his excellency was candid and clear regarding Turkey's stance and about what was required of Iraq in order for it to return to the international community.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti News Agency after a meeting with Demirel, al-Saadoun quoted the Turkish president as saying: You have a just stance and you are not alone. You should know that 60 million Turkish citizens are behind you in confronting the Iraqi regime's procrastination.

Al-Saadoun said that that stance dispelled all that had been raised about a change in Turkey's principled stance regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Non-Oil Exports Fall by More Than Half

NC2409173494 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 24 (AFP)—Kuwait's non-oil exports to Arab states fell by more than half in the first quarter of 1994 compared to the same period last year, an economic weekly said here Saturday [24 September]. But its exports, mainly food and chemical products, to the United States rose 30-fold over the same period, AL-MU'ASHSHIR reported.

Exports to fellow Gulf Cooperation Council members—Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman—fell from 389.7 million Kuwaiti dinars (1.17 billion dollars) in the first quarter of 1993 to 18.9 million dinars (57 million dollars) in 1994.

They dropped from 848,000 dinars (2.54 million dollars) to 467,000 dinars (1.4 million dollars) to Arab countries, notably Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, and from 798,000 dinars (2.39 million dollars) to 332,000 dinars (995,652 dollars) to foreign countries other than the US.

But exports to the US soared from 153,000 Kuwaiti dinars (459,633 US dollars) in the first half of 1993 to 4,703 million dinars (1.418 billion dollars) in 1994.

Kuwait's principal exports are oil and oil-related products, which make up 87 percent of its total revenue.

Oman

Officials Confer With Visiting Tunisian Minister

JN2509162294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Muscat, 25 Sep (WAKH)—Omani Minister of Trade and Industry Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan met in Muscat today with Mohamed Ghannouchi, Tunisian minister of international cooperation and investment, who is visiting Oman. They discussed bilateral trade and economic cooperation relations and ways to promote them.

In another development, Shaykh Ya'qub Bin-Hamad al-Harithi, head of Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has met with the Tunisian minister. They discussed promoting and enhancing relations between the Omani and Tunisian chambers of commerce as well as encouraging businessmen in both countries to increase cooperation and investments between the two countries.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Libyan Oil Envoy

LD2509135994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1156 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Doha, 25 September—Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a message from the Libyan president, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which included a Libyan invitation for holding an Arab summit conference to achieve concord among the Arab countries and unify the Arab rank.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, has received the message when he received 'Abdallah al-Badri, Libyan oil minister and

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current OPEC chairman, who was currently visiting the State of Qatar within the framework of his present tour of the region.

During the meeting, the most important current oil developments were discussed, and views were exchanged on OPEC's strategy in connection with the volume of production in the forthcoming period, in addition to putting the oil market on the international arena.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Visiting Kazakh President

LD2509221794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2151 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 25 Sept—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God support him, today at his office at the royal court received Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is visiting the country.

Following the reception, the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a meeting. [passage omitted]

Sultan Denies UK's Major Sought Arms Deal

JN2509173994 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Duhaym]

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general, has praised the existing profound relations between the Kingdom and Britain. This came in a statement he made after patronizing a ceremony at King Faysal Air College on its 25th anniversary and the graduation of the 46th officers class.

His highness denied the main purpose of British Prime Minister John Major's visit was to sell the Kingdom British military planes. Asked if military deals were behind the visit, his highness said: I do not think so. Neither the British prime minister nor any other head of state comes here as a merchant.

His highness added that the interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are not subject to visits by heads of states or other officials. His highness said Major is a friend from a friendly country and that his visit was part of the close cooperation that has existed between the Kingdom and Britain since the era of the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz and the late Prime Minister Churchill. [passage omitted]

Westerners Threatened by Unknown Group

BR2209160194 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Sep 94 p 3

[Article by Lise Tajik: "Danes Have Been Warned Against Terrorists—Unknown Islamic Group 'The Battalions of the Faith' Threaten Terrorist Actions Against Westerners in Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] Danes in Saudi Arabia have been advised to be more cautious than usual since a group, which calls itself "The Battalions of the Faith," has issued terrorist threats against Westerners in Saudi Arabia.

The warning was sent by fax from the Danish Embassy in Riyadh.

The message refers to reports from London that "The Battalions of the Faith" have threatened terrorist action against Westerners if the religious leader Salman Al-Audah [as published] was not released within five days. The time limit was apparently yesterday [20 September].

The letter from the Danish Embassy said among other things: "For Westerners and especially Danes, the safety situation in Saudi Arabia as we see it is still good. It would however be wise for everybody to be extra cautious for the time being."

Paul Hines, the Danish ambassador in Riyadh, felt that it would be wise to inform as many Danes as possible about the situation and that this information should be passed on to friends and acquaintances.

"We have never heard of this group before. But there are many rumors going around and we wanted to allay any fears among the Danes. Therefore, we found it necessary to publish what little information we have concerning the situation," said the ambassador to BERLINGSKE TIDENDE. The extremist group "Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia" [CDLR] leaked the information concerning possible terrorist action from "The Battalions of the Faith." CDLR has been very critical of the Saudi Arabian regime and Western countries have been led to believe that the group wants more democracy. The Saudi Arabian Embassy in Copenhagen has no information about the group "The Battalions of the Faith" but have heard about CDLR's exile-group in London.

Existence of Group Denied

NC2609112094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 13

[Excerpts] Citing diplomats in Riyadh, the Associated Press yesterday said that Saudi security forces arrested hundreds of people in a crackdown on the country's Islamists over the past week. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, AL-SAFIR received a statement from the "Information Office" of the Saudi Embassy in Beirut. The statement says:

"In your issue number 6,886 (the day before yesterday), you published a report saying that Washington had advised its citizens in the Kingdom to take precautionary measures following threats by a group calling itself "the Battalions of Faith" [kata'ib al-'iman] that it will kidnap American and European citizens.

The Information Office stresses that there is no such group as the Battalions of Faith. It also stresses that these

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news reports, regardless of their source, are false and nothing more than imaginings, illusions, and daydreams entertained by some people.

Concerning your report that the security forces are performing interrogations, these are nothing more than a routine duty like that performed by the security forces in any Arab or non-Arab country eager not to have religious practices turned into an excuse to destroy the country's unity and security." [passage omitted]

Minister on 'Western Lies'

LD2509144094 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Sept 25, SPA—Prince Ahmed Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the vice interior minister has affirmed that Saudi Arabia will continue to progress as it is following the holy Quran and sunnah (sayings of the prophet). [passage omitted]

In response to lies of the Western media pertaining to arrests of some citizens in the Kingdom, Prince Ahmed said "Saudis know themselves and their situation. This is enough for us. But, regarding the foreign world, it is known that a lot of lies and misleading information is circulated by some quarters who have intentions behind such things. As a result of such lies, these things have become dull and unauthentic." [passage omitted]

Asked about whether the jail punishment is an ideal way against drugs distributors, Prince Ahmed said drugs is an epidemic. "It is an international epidemic. Efforts at all levels are under way to check this phenomenon."

Regarding punishment involving more than a jail term, Prince Ahmed said "it is known that there is capital punishment for the convicted drugs smugglers or big distributors. There are also other different methods other than jail," he added.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives al-Qadhdhafi Arab Summit Proposal

JN2409104494 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president, has received a message from His Excellency Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message contains a Libyan call to hold an Arab summit to close Arab ranks, clear the atmosphere, and achieve accord among brothers.

The message was conveyed to his highness the president by 'Abdallah al-Badri, Libyan oil minister and the current OPEC chairman, when he was received by his highness the president at the al-Wathbah resort at noon today. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Addresses People on Revolution Anniversaries

JN2509213394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2003 GMT 25 Sep 94

["Important political statement" by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, marking the 32d anniversary of the 26 September revolution, the 31st anniversary of the 14 October revolution, and the 27th anniversary of the "departure of colonialism" from Yemen on 25 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God the almighty, and prayers and peace be upon the most honorable messenger. O free brother citizens. O sons of our lofty people. Salute of the revolution and unity.

In my name and on behalf of the Presidential Council, I extend to you the warmest heartfelt congratulations on the Yemeni revolution's anniversaries, namely, the 32d anniversary of the 26 September revolution, the 31st anniversary of the 14 October revolution, and the 27th independence anniversary.

The celebrations of these anniversaries are particularly significant because they are marked amid our people's continued rejoicing over their decisive victory on 7 July 1994 while defending the homeland's unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. This legitimacy embodies the people's free will which was expressed in free and honest general elections on 27 April 1993. It is thus natural that our people's rejoicing today is greater than all their rejoicing in previous years, now that unity has been entrenched, thanks to God's watchful eye, and by virtue of our masses' rallying around their Armed and Security Forces after defeating the conspiracy of secession and rebellion and ending the sedition fomented by the traitorous secessionists. This sedition aimed to fragment both the homeland and its unity.

Moreover, our celebrations of these glorious anniversaries will be characterized by continued honoring, with medals, badges, and certificates of distinction, of the heroes among the sons of our armed and security forces as well as of the government and popular institutions, services, and organs, and the sons of our great people who played distinguished roles to defend unity and democracy. This emanates from the acknowledgement and appreciation of all the sacrifices and the prominent national contributions to a free and honorable life and a better future for the homeland. [passage omitted]

O free brother citizens: We definitely realize that the tasks of the new phase are not easy. We, however, are optimistic that the future will be promising in terms of good and achievements. We are confident that the zeal for construction and development can only be realized under stability and by following a consistent internal and

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external policy. Thus, the Republic of Yemen is earnestly and sincerely working to establish good and developed relations with all brethren and friends, based on mutual respect, positive cooperation, and noninterference in internal affairs.

On this occasion, we emphasize the Republic of Yemen's support for all efforts designed to achieve Arab reconciliation with a sincere fraternal spirit and open a new chapter in these relations based on understanding and fruitful cooperation in a way that will achieve the supreme interest of our Arab nation. We hope that all of us will take a lesson from the recent past which proved that amity is better than estrangement, that good will is better than grudge, and that honesty is better than living with illusions, doubts, and misunderstanding. [passage omitted]

Basindwah on Amnesty, Ties With Gulf States

NC2409122894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Sana' al-Sa'id, in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] Prior to his departure from Cairo after attending the Arab League Council's 102d session, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah gave an interview to AL-WAFD. He discussed relations with the Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, and affirmed that Yemen wishes to boost its ties with its neighbors. He added that his country is trying to remove all the flaws that affected its relationship with Russia during the recent crisis. He urged Russia to hand over to Yemen any remaining weapons from the deals it formerly made with the southern Yemeni leaders who defied the legal authorities. He declared that Yemen will not demand that Oman hand over 'Ali Salim al-Bid in order not to embarrass it. Basindwah asked fraternal countries not to permit the rebels to use their territories to conspire against the Republic of Yemen. On another issue, he urged adherence to the Arab boycott of Israel, noting that lifting the boycott should hinge on the attainment of a comprehensive peace settlement.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the quest to heal the rift between Yemen and the Gulf countries, I wish to ask: Does the road to the Gulf pass through Oman?

[Basindwah] The road to the Gulf passes over a bridge of mutual willingness to reach an understanding and reconciliation. We attach special importance to our relations with the Gulf countries, especially with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] You have recently been involved in talks with Oman, with which you signed a border agreement in 1992. Is Oman mediating between you and the Gulf countries?

[Basindwah] I have no information on whether Oman has been asked to mediate. However, this is required from every fraternal country able to bring the other Arab countries closer together. Hence there is no need to ask this or that country to mediate, because mediation must come spontaneously from them.

[Al-Sa'id] What can you tell us about your country's relationship with Saudi Arabia, which is said to fear the existence of a united Yemen on its southern border?

[Basindwah] We are not afraid of a strong Saudi country on our border. Consequently I do not think that the Saudi brothers are afraid of a strong, united Yemen.

[Al-Sa'id] It has been said that Saudi fears might have resulted from the fact that Yemeni development might constitute a threat to them, particularly as Yemen's population is over 13,000 [figure as published].

[Basindwah] Our thirteen million people are the enemies of no one, but brothers to their fraternal neighbors primarily and also to the other Arabs.

[Al-Sa'id] During the Yemeni crisis, it was said that Saudi Arabia acted in a way that gave the impression that it wished to deal with a separate south Yemen.

[Basindwah] Disagreements occur among members of the same family but soon disappear when passions cool down and reason prevails. We do not consider our triumph a victory over anyone, but primarily a victory for Yemeni unity. Furthermore, we do not regard anyone as our enemy, but consider all Arabs our dear brothers. We very much wish to bolster our ties with them, particularly our neighbors. If we have brotherly relations with the Arab Maghreb countries, then it behooves us more to have fraternal and neighborly relations with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your position on relations with Russia in light of the fact that the rebels against the legal authorities pinned their hopes on Russian recognition of a separate south Yemen?

[Basindwah] We have some doubts about Russia. Indeed, some reports said Russia played a role in supplying the rebels with weapons in return for payment. We now wish to purge Yemeni-Russian relations of all flaws and blemishes. It is necessary in the first place for the friends in the Russian Federation to provide us with the necessary information and turn over to us whatever weapons remain from former deals whether their price was paid or not.

[Al-Sa'id] The problem that provoked the conflict between south and north Yemen was the existence of two commands in the Yemeni army. Is anything being done about this?

[Basindwah] Now there is a single army command, thank God.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you intend to ask Oman to hand over the leaders who defied legitimacy and defected to Oman?

[Basindwah] There is only the principal secessionist 'Ali Salim al-Bid. We do not want to embarrass anyone.

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However, we hope that the fraternal countries will not allow any of the secessionist rebels to use their territories to conspire against the Yemeni Republic or against the unity of Yemen. We are hopeful that all the fraternal countries will respond to our request.

[Al-Sa'id] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has recently called for pardoning the previous leaders. It also stressed the need for the creation of a national unity government. How do you view this, and will this have a negative effect on your relations with the YSP?

[Basindwah] There is a YSP leadership inside and another one, made up of secessionists outside the homeland. The second leadership claims it represents the YSP outside. We do not intend to interfere in the YSP's affairs, but we hope it will manage to patch up its differences inside the country. If this is done, we will be able to talk with the YSP leadership. As regards the amnesty, the previous leaders must first stand trial and prove their innocence before they are pardoned.

[Al-Sa'id] Where is Yemen heading? And what about the situation after the recent regrettable events?

[Basindwah] Yemen is forging ahead toward restoring its previous position. I believe that after the consolidation of its unity, Yemen has its weight not only in the region but also throughout the Arab homeland. Yemen will not use this new status to harm anyone or to export trouble to any brother. Yemen will instead use this position to cooperate with all the brothers to guarantee security and stability in the region, safeguard the area's Arabism, and create integration with all fraternal states in the Arab homeland.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you think of Israel, and do you want to speed up normalization with it?

[Basindwah] We follow a firm principle in this regard, namely, we will not think of getting involved in a peace process with Israel as long as there is a dispute between Israel and any Arab side and as long as there is one Arab spot occupied by Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this apply to the Arab boycott of Israel?

[Basindwah] Yes. The Arab boycott should be lifted only when an agreement is reached between all the Arab sides and Israel and when Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is complete.

[Al-Sa'id] Is the threat to invade Haiti a precedent that could happen to any country whose moves are interpreted as deviation from democracy and human rights?

[Basindwah] It is not a precedent. The same thing happened in Grenada and Panama. Although we are concerned with what is taking place in the rest of the world, yet we must focus on our problems in the Arab homeland. We have no time to think of problems other than those involving Arab national issues.

[Al-Sa'id] But during the Yemen events you rejected any external interference on the pretext that this is something internal that concerns Yemen alone.

[Basindwah] What happened in Yemen is completely different from what is currently taking place in Haiti. We in Yemen were committed to constitutional legitimacy and democracy. But in Haiti, the regime assassinated the results of democracy and the parliamentary elections. It is the secessionists who wanted to assassinate the constitutional legitimacy and the results of elections in Yemen.

YRG Shura Council Elects Chairman, Members

JN2309203994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] The Shura [Consultative] Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] held its first session this evening under brother Muhammad Yusuf Harb, the eldest member of the council.

During the session, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid 'Aziz al-Zindani was elected chairman of the Shura Council. Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Ajlan was elected first deputy to the chairman and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bafadl second deputy to the chairman. Brother Sultan 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sub'i was also elected secretary.

Afterward, the Shura Council elected brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Wajih secretary general of the YRG and brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi assistant secretary general.

Tomorrow, Saturday, the rest of the members of the higher body of the YRG and the members of the judicial department will be elected.

The first general congress of the YRG continued its work this morning in the capital, Sanaa, by holding a morning session under YRG Chairman Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. During the session, the names of the winners of the Shura Council membership—who total 100, with 10 reserve members—were announced.

The general congress also endorsed its closing report after adding some remarks by the members. The congress will hold a closing session tomorrow morning, God willing.

Conference Ends, Statement Issued

JN2409213094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] The first general congress of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] has concluded its first conference, which was held 20-24 September. YRG leader brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar addressed the closing ceremony. He expressed hope that in the coming phase there will be contributions to building the state as well as cooperation with the sincere forces in order to entrench the democratic shura [consultative] policy.

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Shaykh al-Ahmar stressed the YRG's determination to promote and consolidate the cooperative and integrative relations between the YRG and the General People's Congress, which were entrenched by the battle of defending unity and democracy.

The conference issued a final statement that included a number of decisions and recommendations on endorsing the final formula of the YRG's statute, the political action program, and the secretary general's report, as well as electing the YRG high commission's head, his deputy, and the head of the organizational judiciary department. It also dealt with electing the members of the YRG's Shura Council, continuing the construction of the leading structures and frameworks on all organizational levels, studying and objectively assessing the [word indistinct] experience, and paying full and serious attention to the female sector in the cities and countryside.

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Ramadan Warns Followers of U.S. Policy

JN2509172194 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said the Arab nation is stronger than all forms of aggression and imperialism and all forms of treason and agentry. Speaking during his meeting with 'Ali Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian Labor Party, Ramadan added: The enemies of the Arab nation are the imperialists, Zionists, Americans, and their agents, the slaves of imperialism. They all have failed to achieve their aggressive aims and ambitions.

Ramadan said that by its wise leadership and great people Iraq has been able to defeat the biggest military aggression known in modern history and to destroy the most savage blockade, led by the United States, the enemy of nations.

Ramadan said the steadfastness of the Iraqis and the rallying of the Arab masses behind the brave leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn inspires fear and anxiety in the hearts of the enemies of the Arabs and their agents. He declared that great victory will soon be achieved, with God's help, and that anyone who succumbed to and carried out U.S. policy would regret it.

The assistant secretary general of the Egyptian Labor Party praised the brave, principled stand of the Iraqi people and the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn as an additional strength for Arab sons in facing their enemies. He said Arab popular forces in Egypt and other Arab states stand alongside their Iraqi brothers in their honorable jihad for the sake of Arab dignity and safeguarding independent Arab decision-making and Arab sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference.

Ba'th Party Talks With Vietnamese Communist Party

JN2509171394 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 25, INA—The party talks between Iraq and Vietnam, began here today. The Iraqi side was chaired by deputy in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Iraq's Command, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, while the Vietnamese side was headed by deputy chairman of Foreign Relations Committee at the Communist Party.

Mr. Jasim lauded the close struggle ties between the two friendly parties, reviewing accomplishments achieved by the July 17-30 revolution in all fields and the forms of conspiracy and plots designed to abort it by the Iranian regime and the U.S. and its allies.

For his part, the head of the Vietnamese party delegation paid tribute to steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their brilliant accomplishments despite the harsh circumstances of the unjust blockade, voicing his country's solidarity.

'Spokesman' Reacts to Mubarak Statements

JN2509124094 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 25, INA—An Iraqi official spokesman commented yesterday on a statement by Egyptian President Mubarak to AL-AHRAM daily and said blacking out the historical facts would not be useful and the campaign of fabrications led by President Mubarak for some time seemed as if timed with the UN Security Council periodic review of the sanctions. It means that President Mubarak has taken upon his shoulders a task compatible with his role in preparing for the aggression on Iraq in 1991, when foreign countries that took part in the aggression have discarded that dubious role.

As for President Mubarak's remark on confidence in Iraq's leadership, it is necessary, the spokesman added, to point out that characteristics of historic men are made by their values and acts. President Saddam Husayn does not obtain confidence from the small and the suspect but rather from his people and nation and the best witness on that is this confidence bestowed by the people of Egypt.

Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister, Team Depart

JN2309170994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev and his delegation left Baghdad today following an official visit to Iraq that lasted several days.

During the visit, the delegation held meetings with Iraqi officials dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the interest of both friendly peoples. [passage omitted]

Opposition: 2 Iraqi Officers Killed in Explosion

NC2409172094 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Amman, Sept 24 (AFP)—Two Iraqi officers were killed and 12 soldiers wounded in an explosion in Baghdad earlier this month which may have been a deliberate attack, Iraqi opposition parties said in a statement received here Saturday [24 September].

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups several opposition parties, said a grenade had exploded during an intelligence services training session supposed to have been carried out with mock grenades.

The intelligence unit's commander Haytham Zubaydi was one of those killed in the explosion which happened at a military college in the capital on September 8, the INC statement said.

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An investigation has been opened to identify who could have sneaked a real grenade into training, according to the statement dated from Salah al-Din in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Report Notes 'Alarming Rise' in Mortality Rate

JN2409122294 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 24 (INA)—Some 6,690 Iraqi people were reported to have died during last August as a result of medicine and food shortage caused by the embargo imposed on the country.

A Health Ministry report released this week showed an alarming rise in mortality rate among Iraqi people, and in particular among children over the past month of August (nearly) four years after the imposition of the embargo in comparison with mortality rate recorded during the same period in 1989 (a year before the imposition of the embargo).

The report blamed the rise in mortality rate on the dearth of food and medicine because of the UN-imposed trade sanctions on Iraq.

As usual children are hit hardest by the sanctions. The report said that 5,146 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition related diseases over the past month of August in comparison with some 302 children [who] died over the same period in 1989.

The ministry's report attributed the rise in fatalities among children to acute shortages of food and medicine because of the embargo and shortages of clean potable water and breakdown of a number of water treatment plants in some parts of the country due to the bombing by U.S. and allies' aircraft during the war and lack of spare parts for maintenance and repair work.

The ministry's report noted that during August 1989, the number of children struck by malnutrition related diseases was 90, whereas the number of children fatalities over the same period in 1994 reached some 2,082 scoring an almost a 2213.3 per cent increase over 1989's figure.

The report also showed that diarrhea has claimed the lives of 159 children over the month of August, 1989 in comparison with some 2,298 deaths recorded during the same period in 1994, that is some 1345.3 per cent increase over 1989's.

Similarly, the number of children who died because of pneumonia has jumped from 53 in August, 1989 to reach some 766 in August 1994 recording an increase of 1345.3 the report pointed out.

As for patients who suffer from chronic diseases, the report noted that hypertension, diabetes and malignant neoplasms were the main causes of the death of 1,544 recorded over the month of August in comparison with some 498 registered over the same period in 1989.

According to the ministry's report some 81 people died because of hypertension over the month of August 1989 in comparison with 274 who died over the same period in 1994, recording an increase of 238.3 per cent over 1989's figure.

In the meantime, fatalities caused by diabetes have registered a sharp rise in August 1994, said the report, noting that some 203 people have died over the month of August 1994 compared with some 81 ones for the same period in 1989, scoring an increase of 150.6 percent over 1989's figure.

According to the report, some 1,607 people who suffer from malignant neoplasms have died during August 1994 compared with some 316 ones died over the same period in 1989, scoring an increase of 237.65 per cent over 1989's figure.

The cause of the sharp rise in mortality rate among people who suffer from malignant neoplasms were attributed to the shortages of chemical and hormone medicines.

The absence of cobalt radioactive element needed for the treatment of malignant tumours has hit plans to care for people in bad need for radio therapy.

An earlier report of the Ministry of Health has pointed out the some 12,299 Iraqi people have been reported dead over the past months of June and July as a result of shortages of food and medicine because of the ongoing trade embargo.

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Israeli Arabs Request Meeting With Iraqi President

JN2409124794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Musa Hawamidah on "exclusive" interview with Talab al-Sani', Knesset member from the Arab Democratic Party; place and date not given]

[Text] Talab al-Sani', member of Israeli Knesset from the Arab Democratic Party [ADP], has said that he handed the Iraqi Embassy [in Amman] a message for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn expressing the ADP's willingness to form a delegation led by ADP Chairman 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and including Palestinian and Jewish personalities of Iraqi origin to visit Baghdad and meet with the Iraqi president.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, al-Sani' said: The aim of this visit would be to voice solidarity with the Iraqi people suffering under the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and in light of the crisis experienced by the Iraqi people.

He added: It is our pan-Arab duty to visit Baghdad to break this blockade, which is aimed at breaking the will of the Iraqi people. He said the blockade is a collective punishment that contravenes all human values and ethics and international conventions. He said the visit is also aimed at strengthen links between the Arab nation and the 1948 Palestinians.

Al-Sani' said that he had not received a reply from Baghdad, but he stressed that the visit will take place within the next few days. He said: I see no reason for Iraq's objection to the visit.

During a visit to the AL-DUSTUR offices on Thursday [22 September], al-Sani' expressed extreme satisfaction with his visit to Jordan and admiration for the progress witnessed by Jordan.

AL-DUSTUR held an extensive interview with al-Sani'. The interview will be published in the next few days.

Darawshah Permitted in 'Principle' To Visit Iraq

TA2509092694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Sep 94 p 16

[Report by Arye Bender, Shefi Gabay, and Amir Gilat]

[Text] MA'ARIV has learned that the Iraqis have in principle permitted Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] to visit Iraq at the head of a delegation of Jews and Arabs.

Darawshah recently called on Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn to permit him to visit Baghdad. The request was transmitted via Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdun.

Darawshah's close associates told MA'ARIV last night that Iraq's answer came through a secret channel, which they refused to reveal. They merely said that only the timing and the agenda for the visit still have to be worked out with the Iraqis.

Darawshah plans to head a 20 member delegation, 10 Jews and 10 Arabs. He announced that he will leave the minute he receives the necessary permission, even if the Israeli Foreign Ministry opposes the visit.

Se'adya Martziano, chairman of Jerusalem's Poor Neighborhoods' Committee, wants to join MK Darawshah. Martziano explained that Iraq is a regional military and economic power and that there cannot be peace in the region with Iraq's participation.

ADP MK Talib al-Sani' is currently in Jordan also trying to get into Iraq. He urged Iraq's Embassy in Amman to permit him to visit, and was yesterday due to meet with the Iraqi ambassador, but the meeting did not take place. Al-Sani' will return to Israel today via the Allenby Bridge.

Savir Predicts Breakthrough in Talks With Arabs

TA2609061094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan early next week. Qol Yisra'el's correspondent in Washington says the three-way meeting is aimed at speeding up a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. He says they may even announce a date for signing the treaty.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says Israel is closer than ever before to a breakthrough in peace efforts with the Arabs, including contacts with Syria. He made the comments in an address to the Washington Institute for Middle East Studies.

Sources Downplay Talk of Imminent Jordan Pact

TA2609082894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan in the White House next week. Peres and Hasan are attending the UN General Assembly's annual session in New York.

Sources in Washington believe that following the tripartite meeting between Clinton, Peres, and Hasan, the latter two will announce a breakthrough in Israeli-Jordanian peace negotiations. Since the Washington Declaration on 25 July, the Israeli and Jordanian delegations have been drafting the various clauses to be included in a peace agreement. It is known, for example, that agreement has already been reached on the clause dealing with nonbelligerency and military issues. At the same time contacts are proceeding in quieter channels in

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Washington in a bid to solve the basic problems of borders and water. Last week the two sides started demarcating 12 mutually recognized border points in order to adjust the Jordanian and Israeli maps for the demarcation of the international border, which has never been marked on the maps.

Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said in Washington yesterday that substantial progress has been achieved in bilateral contacts recently. He said that understandings have been achieved on the borders and water issues, adding that the leaders of the two countries find the formulations regarding these two cardinal issues acceptable. On the water issue, for example, the two countries are acting toward developing new water sources. Some of these projects, such as a joint desalination project, will be raised during the Casablanca conference next month.

The progress on the borders and water issues mentioned by al-'Anani paves the way for signing a peace agreement. It is possible that after the tripartite Clinton, Peres, and Hasan meeting a statement will be made in this issue. At the same time sources in Jerusalem expressed reservations and said that negotiations should be pursued on minor and technical details before it is possible to make such a dramatic statement on an imminent signing of an Israeli- Jordanian peace agreement.

Policemen To Leave for Haiti 29 Sep

TA2409191994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] The police contingent slated to go to Haiti will leave on Thursday [29 September]. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in its Wednesday's meeting the cabinet will be asked to approve the mission. The approval will emphasize that the policemen are being sent only for a reporting and not for a policing mission. Our correspondent notes that the force was supposed to leave for Haiti on Monday but that its departure was postponed so as to bring the matter to the cabinet for approval and because of the unclear situation in Haiti.

Court To Rule on Haiti Contingent

TA2509123294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli Police will not be sent to Haiti until the High Court of Justice hears the appeal against the move lodged by former Kakh spokesman No'am Federman. The judges have already indicated that the intention to send police to Haiti could contravene Israeli law on the functions of the police force.

The High Court judges requested that the government legal experts examine the possibility that civilian volunteers travel to Haiti instead of members of the police force. The High Court will reconvene on Thursday morning [29 September] to decide. On the day before, the government will again discuss the issue.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UN General Assembly

TA2509103694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left before dawn today for New York to participate in the UN General Assembly session. Peres will remain in the United States for about two weeks.

During his New York stay, Peres will confer with the presidents of Mexico and Costa Rica, with the UN secretary general, and with some 30 foreign ministers attending the General Assembly session. Peres will meet with the foreign ministers of China, Russia, Japan, Egypt, Britain, South Korea, etc. Israel's UN representation and other Israeli elements are trying to arrange meetings with foreign ministers of countries which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, mainly Arab and Muslim states.

Peres will address the General Assembly on Thursday. In addition, he will participate in a series of events being held within the framework of the session, including a reception for U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The foreign minister will also participate in the inauguration of an exhibition of Israeli antiquities at the Metropolitan Museum, confer with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, meet with Henry Kissinger, and give interviews and briefings to the American media on the peace process.

On 4 October, Peres will meet in Washington with Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. On 5 October, a meeting is planned with former President Ronald Reagan.

Rabin: Not Time for Drafting Referendum Law

TA2609061294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the time has not arrived for drafting a referendum bill. According to Rabin, he will direct the Justice Ministry to start drafting the bill when the time arrives. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir says that, in his meeting with Meretz ministers yesterday, Mr. Rabin denied the reports that he ordered a Labor Party team to prepare the referendum bill.

Justice Minister Liba'i says his ministry will start drafting such a bill only upon receiving a directive from the prime minister. Meanwhile, the question has arisen whether to amend the Golan Law in the event of a small-scale Golan withdrawal. According to several jurists it will be necessary to change the law even if we are only talking of a withdrawal from the Druze villages on the Golan.

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Rabin's Performance as Prime Minister Viewed

TA2309175794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "His Finest Hour"]

[Text] There are born politicians, and then there are politicians who are born at the age of 72 and a half. That is apparently the case with Yitzhaq Rabin. From being a quasi-commentator, an indecisive leader, and a hawk at heart, Rabin is now becoming a ruler, leading us to peace with Syria and Lebanon. He is being attacked on all sides—he has problems in his own party and in his government, and some of his best friends are rising up against him. But what is happening is Rabin is doing what David Ben-Gurion called the proof of a leader: Doing what the people need, not what they want. And if what we think we are seeing is true, we are witnessing an extraordinary metamorphosis of the man.

In just over two years, Rabin has slowly become the most dominant man in our political world—not necessarily in the positive sense of the word—not only because he serves as prime minister, defense minister, foreign minister, interior minister, religious affairs minister, and chairman of his party, but because of his unusual exposure. An archives search that between 15 and 31 August, that is within a two week period, HA'ARETZ carried 175 reports, articles, and commentaries about Rabin. Multiply that by the number of newspapers and electronic media reports, and you will find at least 150 reports, articles, and interviews that feature Rabin daily. It is doubtful whether the personality cult around Mao Zedong was as extensive. But the truth is that never before have we had a prime minister so active and energetic, who travelled so much, lectured, gave interviews, was exposed to the media, and answered so many questions. Put a microphone in front of him while he is fast asleep in bed at night, and you will hear him immediately, automatically, give a long and convoluted answer.

But the exposure and all the talk over these past two years have not made him popular with the public. The reason is that for all that time it was not clear whether he was responsible for bringing about the current situation or was simply commenting on it. His messages concerning the path he chose appeared confused and contradictory. Recognition of the PLO and the agreement with 'Arafat, rather than showing his leadership qualities, showed his apprehensions. The gap between his gut feeling—what he felt—and his brain—what he thought—was obvious to all. His behavior, including his outbursts, did not convey confidence and clarity of purpose.

It is no coincidence that for the third time, a public opinion poll conducted by Mina Tzemah has shown that Yitzhaq Rabin is in a photo finish with Bibi Netanyahu, and in the latest poll the Likud leader even has a two-percent lead. Such polls could be dismissed—because Netanyahu has still not done anything—had identical results not shown up in internal polls ordered by Labor. I have been told that the Rabin camp is worried about these results and says they reflect a deeper opposition to a Golan withdrawal than previously thought.

It is my evaluation, however, that these polls still reflect the attitude towards yesterday's Rabin—who sent conflicting messages, whose long-term goals seemed unclear, and who would leave all the dirty work to his successors. Therefore, nothing can be learned from the polls about the future. When Rabin presents the nation with a draft peace accord initialed with Syria, one which includes all the components of peace and security, which is implemented simultaneously with end of hostilities on the Lebanese border—which takes a heavy toll on us—it will totally change the public's attitude. A peace agreement with Syria will not only bring to an end the War of Independence and lead to a wave of agreements with neighboring and distant Arab states, but it will also give the Palestinian problem a different perspective. Syria does not aspire to see the establishment of a Palestinian state either.

Rabin's upheaval began on the day he decided, in rare coordination between his gut and his head, on a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, including the dismantling of all the settlements. The prime minister always had an obsessive attitude toward the northern border, and he did not make his decision lightly. Shortly after taking office as prime minister, he told me in reply to a question, that if he talks about a readiness to withdraw, it would pit the settlers against him. Why stir them up against him before it is clear whether there is anything to discuss with al-Asad?

Now that he has become convinced that al-Asad has made up his mind and is ready to talk peace and normalization, Rabin has decided to talk, and talk, and talk, about a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Rabin told Labor's Bureau: "We have not committed ourselves to a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, at least not to the Syrians, but we will go to the people and present them with the agreement, including the price being demanded." In other words, he confirms the fact that he made a commitment about a total withdrawal. So to whom did he make a commitment if not to the Syrians? To the United States, of course, which has become, in Peres' words, the concessions' bank of both sides. The total withdrawal has already been deposited, there is no argument about that.

Therefore, for the first time since 1974, Rabin has a strategy, tactics, a modus operandi, and the persistence required to carry out all the tough duties while he is still on the job, as one would expect of a leader. This may be the beginning of Yitzhaq Rabin's finest hour.

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Peres, Source Comment on Autonomy Expansion

TA2309130194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] "The Palestinians should be given the powers that can be given to them wherever this is possible." This was said yesterday by a senior political source who spoke with political correspondents in Jerusalem. The source said that the autonomy should be gradually expanded over West Bank territories and that a gradual IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from the large cities should be considered on the basis of security considerations.

According to the source, "Israel's problem in the large cities is that of the traffic axes. A security solution must be found to this problem. We are not interested in policing Nabulus if the main road can be safeguarded without any casualties."

The senior political source said we must reach an agreement on the next stage in the arrangement with the Palestinians, to include both "procedural and territorial aspects," but without exhausting these two spheres.

The senior political source believes that the next stage in the agreement would be called an "interim agreement," as stated in the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

"I am in favor of continuing the process with them rather than stopping it," the source said. "There are people in Israel who are constantly expressing regrets over the Oslo agreement, especially those who did not support it from the beginning." The source termed the demand of various people to delay the next stages in the implementation of the DOP until the Palestinians prove their ability to fight terrorism as "nonsense."

During his meeting with the U.S. peace team two days ago, Foreign Minister Peres said "Israel should not be Gaza's literary supplement and should stop criticizing them all the time."

Yesterday Peres said "the real option is not mapping out territories but powers. Since there are different problems in different places, however, we will have to find specific solutions in addition to the general agreement."

According to Peres, "We undertook a commitment in the DOP, and we intend to honor it. We are committed to the elections, but first we must decide the modalities of the elections."

The senior political source said elections will not be held on 1 November, as demanded by the Palestinians. "Even before the Gaza-Jericho agreement they said we are not abiding by the timetable." According to him " 'Urayqat has been nagging 'Arafat, so the latter told him to hold the elections on 1 November."

The senior source said that, in the agreement on expanding the autonomy to the West Bank, Israel should aim to keep the settlements in their place. He added, however, that this principle should not hold in relation to the settlements in downtown Hebron and Nabulus' Joseph's Tomb. According to him, "the problem there is in relations between Jews and Arabs, and in Hebron this is especially difficult. Hebron is an exceptional problem."

The source said the settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip must be evacuated because it "causes problems to us and to them. It is not vital, and it costs money." He added that Israel wants to maintain the principle of not evacuating settlements and is meanwhile paying a price for this.

Answering a question on the issue of Netzarim, Dugit, and the Jewish community in Hebron, Peres said yesterday: "I do not see their advantage, only the price we have to pay for them. I believe that sooner or later we will have to draw the necessary conclusions."

Peres said he agreed with 'Arafat in their Oslo meeting that the talks scheduled to commence next week on the issue of elections will be defined as "informal." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 23 September, in a page 3 report by Hemi Shalev, adds: "Israel will propose to the Palestinians to assume gradual authority in the West Bank by transferring "enclaves" to the Palestinian Authority. A senior Israeli political source explained that this is an attempt to overcome the security problems that are preventing the full implementation of the Oslo agreement."]

Labor MK's Sign Golan Heights Allegiance Pledge

TA2309113394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 p A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Gid'on Alon, and Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Five Labor Knesset members [MK's] yesterday signed a document drafted by Golan settler leaders "pledging allegiance to the Golan Heights." The document, which was signed during a stormy visit by nine Labor MK's with the Gamla hunger strikers, states that "the Israeli Government's efforts to achieve peace with Syria cause great concern about the possibility of ceding the Golan Heights and returning to the 1967 borders on the basis of Syria's emphatic demands, which could foil the entire peace process.

"Consequently, we Labor MK's pledge our allegiance to the decisions of the Labor Party convention and its platform for the 13th Knesset elections on the basis of which we were elected. In view of this, we cannot support any proposal that entails ceding the entire Golan Heights. This position expresses our view and the principles on the basis of which we were elected to office. Moreover, we believe it will strengthen the government's peace efforts."

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The document of allegiance was signed by MK's Yoram Lass, Ya'aqov Shefi, Avigdor Qahalani, 'Imanu'el Zismann, as well as by Deputy Minister Masha Lubelsky. The other MK's who participated in the visit refused to sign this document. The settler leaders exerted great pressure on MK Dalya Itzik in an effort to induce her to sign the document after she stated "her hand would shake were it necessary for me to decide today how to vote on the issue of Golan withdrawal," but Itzik firmly refused to sign the document.

MK Eli Dayan, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, promised to speak with Prime Minister Rabin about facilitating the Labor faction discussion on the issue of the negotiations with Syria and its ramifications on the Golan Heights, this in order to make it possible for those calling for reinforcing the Golan Law to submit their proposal before 3 October, thus convincing the hunger strikers to end their strike.

The Labor MK's were heckled, booed, and verbally abused during their visit to Gamla. A scuffle was narrowly averted when one of the demonstrators tried to attack MK Eli Dayan. [passage omitted]

Likud Reported Split Over Underground Issue

TA2409142194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Likud Knesset members [MK's] attack their colleague, David Mena', for having agreed to defend the Qahalani brothers who are suspected of belonging in the new underground, saying that his media appearance as their attorney gives the public the impression that the entire Likud faction defends the Qahalani brothers and their actions. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that these MK's did not want to identify themselves. MK Mena' said he volunteered to defend the Qahalani brothers as a private attorney, and he does not care for his party critics who are out to spite him.

It had earlier been reported that Likud MK's want an urgent meeting to clarify their party's attitude toward the extreme right. Yehoshu'a Matza, the head of the Likud Secretariat, says he will raise the issue during the political forum's meeting. MK Limor Livnat says that Likud members are afraid to speak and the public misinterprets the party's positions as a result. MK Dan Meridor says it is totally unnecessary to discuss a position which is clear, well-known, and categorically opposed to any lawbreaking. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says that if it becomes clear to him that such a discussion is necessary, it will be held immediately upon convening the faction following the Knesset's summer recess. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 24 September adds that "Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says that after it has been made clear to him that the suspects in the Jewish terrorist underground affair were not tortured, as far as the Likud is concerned the affair is now closed." Still, "there are serious divisions within the Likud about how to deal with the case. For example, in contrast with the views of Netanyahu, the head of the Likud Bureau, MK 'Uzi Landau, charged that the security service investigation of the Qiryat Arba' detainees smacked of politics, and was even an effort by Prime Minister Rabin to crush his political opponents. Landau added that most of the Likud shares his view."]

Chief of Staff on IDF Redeployment in West Bank

TA2509192394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not redeploy in Judaea and Samaria before there is a force in the area capable of assuming responsibility for security affairs. The IDF will not forsake its responsibility for any Israeli, he added. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David spoke with Lieutenant General Baraq this evening as he toured an Armored Corps exhibition in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Sir, there was another terrorist attack in Gaza today. Does this prove that the PLO cannot fulfill its responsibility there?

[Baraq] In my view, this does not prove anything. As is known, we are not yet satisfied with the level of performance of the Palestinian police, particularly following terrorist attacks. I am convinced that the meeting held today by Prime Minister Rabin and 'Arafat will help the Palestinian police deal better with terror attacks.

As for the attack itself, we would like to wish a speedy recovery to the victim. The military unit on the site acted quickly and correctly and, indeed, the terrorist was killed.

[Ben-David] This being the situation, is there anybody in Judaea and Samaria capable of assuming responsibility after the IDF's redeployment?

[Baraq] I do not want to discuss future scenarios at the moment. There is a time and place for everything. Of course, we will not forsake the security of any Israeli. We will not pull out of any place where we cannot exercise our responsibility before we transfer this responsibility to somebody else. [end recording]

Hebron Settlers Plan To Fight Evacuation Attempts

TA2509094494 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Sep 94 p 16

[Report by Itamar Eichner]

[Text] The Jewish settlements in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' have worked out a contingency plan to foil any attempt to evacuate them, a settlement leader in the region said over the weekend. This follows Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' estimation that the Jewish settlement there will soon have to be uprooted.

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Peres said he "does not see anything the settlers can contribute by remaining" in the area, "except the high price it costs us to keep them there."

Since the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre and the reports about the evacuation of settlers from Tall al-Rumaythah, the Hebron settlers have consolidated contingency plans to prevent their evacuation.

Tzvi Qatzover, head of the Qiryat Arba' Local Council, said that the settlers will struggle fiercely against evacuation: "The rioting that took place at the Cave of the Patriarchs last week, is child's play compared to what will take place in Hebron in the future."

A settlement leader said: "We will bring thousands to Hebron. They will hole up in houses, chain themselves, and physically prevent the evacuation. There will also be those who will commit suicide."

No'am Arnon, a Hebron settlement leader, said: "We are not preparing to evacuate Hebron, but to evacuate Peres. He and his men led the state into chaos and we will settle accounts with him. Hebron will not be Yamit [whose settlers were forced to leave when Sinai was returned to Egypt]. Here, most of the residents will not leave willingly and will put up a fight. Hebron will not fall again."

Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman, head of the Nir Yeshiva and a settlement leader, said: "Logically, Peres' remarks will lead to the evacuation of Jerusalem, as well as of all Eretz Yisra'el. I pray that Mr. Peres' old age not shame his youth, when he was busy building Eretz Yisra'el not destroying it."

PFLP Activist Murders New Immigrant in Ashdod

TA2309191294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] A nationalistic-motivated murder was reported in Ashdod. Natasha Ivanov, 30, was murdered in her apartment in Ashdod's He Quarter. She was apparently strangled two days ago. The body of the murdered woman, a new immigrant from Russia, was discovered in the apartment this afternoon.

Police forces arrived at the scene after an anonymous phone call from an Arab who identified himself as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and said that he murdered her. His identity is known to the police.

Israel has already asked the Palestinian liaison committee to locate the suspect, who apparently fled to the Gaza area.

Curfew Lifted From Hebron; Arab Youths Riot

TA2309193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Video report by Yuli Ofeq]

[Excerpt] The curfew was lifted from Hebron today, and Arab youths confronted the security forces. Our correspondent Yuli Ofeq was in Hebron a day after the confrontation between Qiryat Arba' residents and the Army.

[Begin recording] This morning, Arabs set tires on fire at the entrance to Hebron in reaction to the curfew imposed on them yesterday in the wake of clashes between the Army and settlers. At noon, a suspicious object was discovered at the entrance to the town. A robot exploded the object and it transpired that it was a dead charge. Both the Jewish and Arab residents of Hebron say such a thing is routine, but the security forces never take any risks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

West Bank Incidents, Disturbances Reported

TA2509124394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 94 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Upon his return from Jordan, Muhammad al-Nasir who serves as deputy staff officer for electricity affairs in the Civil Administration in the West Bank was detained by the people of Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security service. In his interrogation al-Nasir was charged with collaborating with Jordanian intelligence against the Oslo agreement. His interrogators also claimed that al-Nasir met with Abu-al-Tayyib [Muhammad al-Natur], the commander of the PLO's Force 17, who is opposed to the agreement with Israel.

It was only through Israeli intervention that al-Nasir was released from detention. The West Bank Civil Administration employees are angry with al-Rujub due to the incident. [passage omitted]

A bomb exploded last Friday afternoon in the area of the Rafat village in the Tulkarm District. A border police vehicle drove by at the time, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] began searches.

A Rimonim resident last Friday reported that two Bedouin shepherds had crossed the fence of the settlement located in the Ramallah District. Upon noticing them, he fired a warning shot in the air and the two fled. One of them was caught later and turned over to the police.

Two Molotov cocktails were hurled at a border police patrol in Hebron. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Several incidents involving stonings of Israeli vehicles in Ramallah and Hebron were recorded over the weekend.

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Palestinian sources reported a single injury in Hebron. The IDF did not confirm this information.

The IDF spokesman announced that the No. 90 traffic axis in the Jericho area was reopened to Israeli traffic on Friday.

'Terrorist' Shot Dead After Stabbing Settler

TA2509063094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] There has been a terrorist attack at the Neve Deqalim settlement at Hof 'Aza. A 17-year-old Jew, a resident of the settlement, was stabbed this morning at the settlement's gate by a terrorist, sustaining medium to serious wounds. The wounded youth is now receiving medical treatment at the site and a helicopter has been called to fly him to the hospital. The terrorist was shot dead by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Three Palestinian Policemen Arrested in Nabulus

TA2509054394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The Settlements Committee in Judaea and Samaria has complained to the police minister about the border guards' operations officer in the area. The committee charges that the officer has been picking confrontations with the settlers and even struck some women. The border guards' spokesman says that if the settlers lodge a complaint it will be investigated.

In Nabulus yesterday, a Border Police patrol arrested three Palestinian policemen, including one of Jibril al-Rujub's secret service members. The three were in the area without permits and were handed over to the Israel Police. The Palestinian policemen are restricted to operating in the autonomous enclaves of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

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King To Ease Visiting Regulations With Israel

TA2309152394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla in Amman]

[Text] King Husayn yesterday instructed Foreign Ministry officials to make it easier for residents of Israel and the territories to visit Jordan and for Jordanian nationals to visit Israel.

Muhammad al-Dhuwayb, the minister for Palestine affairs, [title as published] informed the visiting delegation of Israeli Arabs about this development yesterday at a farewell dinner at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman. The minister said that Jordan would do its share to normalize relations between Israeli Arabs and their Palestinian brethren in the various Arab countries.

The delegation members yesterday visited the Druze town al-Zarqa' and the northern city of Irbid. The delegation toured Amman's markets and received a warm welcome everywhere.

Mr. al-Tawil, the director general of the Jordanian Hotel Association, yesterday said that thanks to the progress made in the peace process, all the hotels were fully occupied for the next four months.

Minister Issues Procedures for Border Crossing

JN2409150394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has issued instructions setting the procedures to be followed by security personnel at a crossing point south of Wadi al-'Arabah.

Duty hours at the crossing will be from 800 to 1600 throughout the week, except on Fridays and Saturday. Visas will be issued at the crossings. Foreigners will receive the same treatment accorded to Jordanians at the the former's border points.

Members of the diplomatic corps in the two countries may use the crossings only after obtaining a permit through the Foreign Ministry. Transit cars on both sides of the border are also not allowed to use the crossing.

The instructions will permit those who enter the country through that crossing to exit through any other crossing or Queen Alia International Airport.

Crown Prince Returns From Visits to UK, France

JN2409212694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat upon their return to Amman tonight following a working visit to Britain and a private visit to France that lasted several days.

Prince Hasan Views Focus of Upcoming UN Meeting

JN2509070594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] His majesty the king has welcomed back his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who returned home after a working visit to Britain and a private visit to France. In an arrival statement, his royal highness told reporters that he would have a meeting with the American leadership to discuss setting up an American-Jordanian joint committee.

Prince Hasan, who will deliver Jordan's address at the United Nations General Assembly next week, said there is an important date in the middle of next month, which is examining the degree of commitment of the international community towards the issue of Bosnia. He said as the Muslim world prepares for the Islamic summit at the beginning of next year, one has to take into consideration a host of issues, particularly distinguishing between extremism on one hand and fundamentalism on the other. He added that the tolerant Islamic religion and the international tendency to understand Islam is a fundamental part of the meeting at the UN and later at the Islamic summit.

His royal highness said talks at the UN meeting this time would focus on the 50th anniversary of establishing the UN, the southern Asian inclination for representation in international issues, the issues of security, and the security Council membership.

'Diplomatic Sources' on Hasan-Netanyahu Meeting

JN2509150794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 25 Sep 94 pp 1, 15

[Text] London—AL-ASWAQ—Arab diplomatic quarters in the British capital agree that the meeting [in London] last Wednesday between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, should be considered an extremely important central link in the process of building a just and comprehensive peace in the region on very clear bases that are recognized by all influential political parties and forces.

The Arab diplomatic sources conveyed these impressions and analyses to AL-ASWAQ. They based their assessment on leaks over the past few days coming out of the meeting at the Jordanian Embassy in London. These diplomatic sources have learned that the leader of Israel's Likud Party acknowledged—in the name of his party—a number of political facts that are seen as basic pillars in the structure of the coming phase. Netanyahu was quoted as saying, after his meeting with His Highness Prince Hasan, that the Jordanian entity is a basic and vital [preceding word in English] part of the process of building peace as well as in the equation of regional stability. This acknowledgement, the diplomatic sources

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added, comes after Jordanian diplomacy imposed itself and its influence on all international and regional levels.

This acknowledgment requires Likud's leadership to avoid its old language in which the expression "Jordan is Palestine" was used. Arab diplomatic sources in London who thoroughly monitored the contents of Hasan-Netanyahu meeting report that the change in the Likud's official political platform is a serious indication that the Jordanian-Israeli track in the negotiations enjoys a consensus of opinion and that it is qualified to be the backbone of the regional political equation in the coming stage. These sources recalled that Likud did not oppose the Washington Declaration in the Knesset and that it stands, together with the Labor Party, in recognizing the value of the importance and vitality of the Jordanian card in future political and economic arrangements.

Arab diplomatic sources in London firmly believe the expected meeting between Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will achieve an essential breakthrough in the general climate of the talks, particularly regarding Jordan's achievement of tangible results within the framework of the technical committees, whether in terms of border and water issues or in terms of the economic projects to be discussed in the Casablanca conference next month.

Talks With PLO To Resume at 'Ministerial' Level

JN2409083094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent]

[Text] Amman—One of the immediate agreements reached during last week's talks between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Faruq al-Qaddumi was to resume "ministerial level" talks between the two sides and that this could happen before the end of this month, a senior PLO official said Friday.

'Umar al-Khatib, acting head of the Palestinian embassy in Amman, said he expected to receive on Sunday a firm word on the dates of the meeting from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

"The Palestinian delegation to the meeting will include at least seven ministers" of the self-rule authority, Mr. al-Khatib told the JORDAN TIMES. "The delegation will discuss all aspects of Jordanian cooperation and coordination in all spheres, with particular emphasis on economic relations."

Mr. al-Khatib said he did not expect Jordanian-Palestinian differences to block the finalisation of agreement in various field of potential cooperation. "Agreements could be expected during this round of talks," he said.

Ministerial teams from both sides met last month in Amman and it was expected that the meetings would resume on Sept. 10. But, Mr. al-Khatib said, "internal problems" in Gaza and Jericho had delayed the meeting.

The PLO official said he expected the upcoming meeting to discuss a possible visit to Jordan of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the PNA.

Jordanian officials have said that Jordan was ready to welcome Mr. 'Arafat for high-level discussions, but the Palestinian leader has to come prepared to discuss all outstanding issues in depth with a view to not only reaching but also implementing agreements.

One of the key outstanding issues is an economic agreement. Jordan and the PLO drew up an accord in January after His Majesty King Husayn served an ultimatum on the PLO leadership to make up its mind whether to cooperate and coordinate with Jordan.

That accord was very broad without pinning down details or mechanisms for cooperation since the PLO had not reached an agreement on economic ties with Israel, which is effectively still in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In April, the PLO and Israel signed an economic accord, which contained many overlappings with the January agreement signed with Jordan.

Subsequently, Jordan and the PLO drew up another accord as a follow-up to the January agreement and included in it detailed mechanism for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in banking and monetary affairs and trade.

However, buoyed by what it saw as Israeli "concessions" that the organisation secured in the April accord with the Jewish state, the PLO leadership stalled over the agreement with Jordan to the extent that some Jordanian officials describe the status of institutionalized Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations as sub- zero.

There is no indication that Mr. 'Arafat, who is seeking all trimmings of Palestinian statehood including a monetary authority and currency, is ready to drop his objections to some of the provisions in the accord reached with Jordan.

These include Jordanian licensing and supervision of all commercial banks in the occupied territories since the Jordanian dinar is designated as the "main currency" in circulation there and the opening of an account by the PNA at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to channel international aid to the self-rule areas.

After Wednesday's talks with Mr. al-Majali, Mr. al-Qaddumi said Jordanian and Palestinian economies complemented each other and as such there should not be any obstacle to finalizing the economic agreement.

Apart from political differences, some PLO official accused Jordan of trying to bypass the PLO when the

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Kingdom signed an agreement with Israel in August providing for the export of $30 million of Jordanian goods to the West Bank excluding the self-rule areas.

Jordan countered this accusation by pointing out that without Israeli agreement it would be impossible for anyone to export anything to the occupied territories and that the agreement was very much in line with the economic accord reached with the PLO.

Despite the agreement, the Israeli authorities have not issued any license to Palestinian traders for imports from Jordan. "A few have applied for licenses but they have not received any response from the Israeli authorities," said a senior official.

According to the official, Jordanian exporters had sent samples of their products to the Israeli "quality control" authorities and had received approval of the standard and quality of the products—a prior condition for imports to Israel and the occupied territories.

On the other hand, the PNA is reportedly discouraging Palestinian importers from seeking licenses for imports from Jordan, other sources said.

"It seems that Palestinian businessmen have been told not to bother to apply for licenses for imports from Jordan since they won't be allowed in anyway," said one source.

The issue of trade and means to facilitate Jordanian exports to the self-rule areas as well as other parts of the West Bank are expected to figure high in the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian meeting.

"In addition, many other proposals were made to the Palestinian side during our last meeting," said a senior official. "They (the Palestinian side) are expected to provide their response to those proposals during the next meeting."

Jordan is also looking forward to Palestinian ideas on coordination ahead of a planned four-party meeting grouping the Kingdom, the PNA, Israel and Egypt to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war.

Jordan initially refused to endorse the idea of such a meeting since the Kingdom was not a party to agreeing to the forum, one of the stipulations in the Oslo accords reached between Israel and the PLO.

However, the Kingdom decided to drop its objections since it believed that it should attend "any meeting that would discuss the issue of displaced people and attended by Israel" and because the issue of displaced persons is being dealt with in the bilateral level with Israel as well as in the multilateral phase of Middle East peace negotiations.

"The minimum level of coordination that we expect from the Palestinian side is in terms of unifying data," said a senior official. "it will be ridiculous for Jordan and the Palestinian to present differing figures and data during talks with Israel."

Ambassador to Egypt Notes 'New Stage' in Ties

JN2409120394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Sep 94 p 28

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah on "exclusive" statement to AL-RA'Y by Ambassador to Egypt Nayif al-Qadi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo, has said that Jordanian-Egyptian relations have entered a new stage of cooperation and coordination and made great strides in the fields of bilateral cooperation and commercial exchange.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y in Cairo, al-Qadi said that the orientations defined by His Majesty King Husayn succeeded in strengthening these relations in terms of commitment to continuous coordination and contact between the two leaderships and governments, as well as at the ambassadorial level. This has resulted in greater agreement on Jordanian and Egyptian stands toward pan-Arab, regional, and international issues.

Ambassador al-Qadi recalled the recent meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. This meeting was held following contacts his majesty made in Washington with the U.S. leadership and Congress and resulted in the Washington Declaration within the framework of an agreement between Israel and Jordan on a joint agenda. The meeting confirmed the Jordanian leadership's eagerness to brief the brothers in Egypt on the latest developments in the peace process, in which Jordan is playing a primary role. For its part, Egypt is seeking to render this peace process a success and to resolve all obstacles facing it.

Ambassador al-Qadi said that both Jordan and Egypt are sincerely calling for an end to the current Arab situation, for restoring the strength and influence of Arab solidarity, and for bringing inter-Arab relations back to normal. The two countries have not spared any effort to clean the Arab atmosphere and to restore the strength and influence of the Arab stand and solidarity.

Ambassador al-Qadi said that harmony between the Jordanian and Egyptian sides was clear during the International Conference for Population and Development, in which the two sides emphasized the Arab and Islamic stand on the issues discussed during this international conference. They worked toward promoting the ideas that do not contradict the religious and spiritual values of the Arabs and Muslims.

He added that the Jordanian and Egyptian sides managed to underscore the Arab and Islamic aspect of these issues and the ability to deal with these issues wisely and

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in a modern and civilized spirit that does not contradict Islamic law or Arab and Islamic traditions.

The ambassador said that Jordanian-Egyptian harmony was evident during the meetings of the Arab League Council's 102d session chaired by Jordan and which had positive results. He said: We hope that we will soon feel these results with regard to inter-Arab relations and Arab relations with the world. Indeed, it is clear that Egypt and Jordan have pushed toward improving inter-Arab relations, cleaning the atmosphere, and restoring Arab solidarity.

Ambassador al-Qadi added that Jordan and Egypt agreed in their stands toward all the topics discussed during the Arab League session. They clearly supported the peace process and resolutions dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as topics dealing with the Palestinian question and occupied Jordanian territories.

The ambassador said that the Jordanian labor minister's visit to Egypt was successful and that it will have a positive effect on the movement of workers between the two fraternal countries to serve their joint interests

Within this framework, the ambassador said that a large Egyptian delegation, headed by Egyptian Minister of Tourism, Mamduh al- Biltaji, and including senior officials from both the public and private sectors is expected pay an official three-day visit to Jordan on Monday [26 September]. The delegation will coordinate with the Jordanian side in the Ministry of Tourism on the future of tourism relations and joint projects. It will also discuss ideas in light of recent developments and changes.

Trade Minister on 'Economic Fruits of Peace'

JN2409092094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's option to accept a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed a strategic political decision, but the Kingdom also needs an equal opportunity access to the economic fruits of peace if it were to maintain the state of peace and stability in the region, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Hunaydi said Friday.

The Kingdom, which has always borne the brunt of all conflicts in the Middle East, paid a heavy price for no fault of its own, the minister said, adding that Jordan's total losses over the decades were estimated at $16 billion.

"We fully comprehend the intricate relationship between peace and development," Dr. Hunaydi told a "Peace Economy Business round table" in New York. "Without peace, the development potential cannot be realised; but at the same time, peace cannot be sustained without equitable development."

Dr. Hunaydi said Jordan was not seeking any preferential treatment from the international community in the inflow of foreign private capital into the region in the wake of a peace settlement. But, she said, Jordan is maintaining that the "opportunity to benefit from the peace dividend should be made more balanced."

"Economically, this would mean an equitable share for each party in the scarce resources of the region," said Dr. Hunaydi. "It would mean equal chances to attract foreign investments—the perceived engine for growth and technology transfer, and equal chances to benefits from the anticipated booms, be it in tourism, construction or other industries and services."

"It also means dealing effectively with the legacies of the past...not only the economic burdens of debt and serious human dislocations but also the prejudices and practices that have developed over five decades of hostilities," Dr. Hunaydi said in her speech, a copy of which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES.

"Jordan, by all standards, was not the least to suffer, neither from the devastating wars and their tragic consequences, nor from the precarious lulls and tension of the intervening states of no- peace no-war," the minister said.

Noting that Jordan had to house over a million of refugees and offer them help in various forms, "and perhaps even glimmer of hope," Dr. Hunaydi said the Kingdom had to stretch its resources "thin at the risk of leaving very little for future generations."

The yawning gap between the needs of the population and resources adversely affected Jordan's economic and social systems, she said, adding that the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, budget deficits, high unemployment rate and poverty were results of "instability-driven population migrations."

"The total direct financial burden that Jordan shouldered as a result of regional conflict and actions of other is estimated at $16 billion, not to mention the indirect cost of interrupted development and lost opportunities," she said.

The minister briefly reviewed Jordan's contribution to the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 and noted that the Kingdom had made major headway in building confidence-building measures while striving for a peace accord with Israel that could be reached after settling the basic conflict over territory and water.

"These achievements cannot and should not be underestimated in a region where hostility has been so deep-rooted," she said. "For peace to be sustainable, the roots of the conflict have to be adequately addressed, and injustices inflicted on the people of the region over the past five decades have to be properly dealt with."

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Dr. Hunaydi noted that a recent opinion poll indicated that 75 per cent of the population in Jordan support the Washington Declaration the Kingdom signed with Israel in July and that the rate of Israeli support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace move was similar, if not better.

But the disparity between the two sides, in terms of motivations and expectations, is wide, she noted.

For the Israelis, peace with Jordan means an acceptance in the region while for Jordanians the aspirations are for the restoration of the Kingdom's territorial and water rights and relief from economic hardships.

"Thus, continued support by the average Jordanian hinges on a peace that delivers its promise," Dr. Hunaydi emphasised.

"Creating the appropriate conditions is not only the responsibility of our peoples, who have chosen peace as a strategic option; it is also the responsibility of the international community which has invested considerably in this process and which also stands to benefit from a stable Middle East," she told the audience.

Jordan has already made major strides in preparing itself to be more receptive to foreign investment and has met with the requirements of such investment, she noted.

"We have already embarked on a bold political reform process that would ensure an atmosphere of democracy, pluralism and stability conducive to economic growth," she said.

The minister referred to the democratisation process under way in Jordan, the Kingdom's reintroduction of a multiparty political system and liberalisation of press and publication laws. "Our human rights record is second to none in the region, and is being already judged according to European standards."

"Democratisation in Jordan is an irreversible political process which runs in line with the Kingdom's basic principles of economic freedom and liberal policies," said Dr. Hunaydi, adding that Jordan's economic model is based on free-market mechanisms and progressive encouragement of the private sector.

The minister also noted that Jordan had applied for membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and undertook serious measures aimed at liberalising its trade regime.

Dr. Hunaydi referred to the economic restructuring programme under way in Jordan, noting that policy reforms and institutional strengthening were being carried out in all major sectors.

"Despite the enormity of this task and the ensuring social challenges, foremost among which are increased level of poverty and unemployment, Jordan remains committed to economic restructuring and reform," she said. "But as we continue to implement our economic reform programme with the meagre resources at our disposal, along with the new challenges of peace, we find the task ahead is monumental to carry alone. the international community can play a big role in contributing to and supporting the economic growth thus envisioned."

The minister said cancelling Jordan's foreign debts would help the Kingdom attain a better balance of payment situation which in turn would do away with investor skepticism. She welcomed as an appreciated step the American and British moves to write off part of Jordan's debts.

"Financing the necessary infrastructure for tourism and industrial development along with regional projects will further improve the competitiveness of Jordan as an investment location, reducing potential risk of polarisation and the threat that may bring to the stability of the region," Dr. Hunaydi said.

Foremost among the investment opportunities available in Jordan are in tourism and Dead Sea chemicals, the minister said, noting that feasibility studies have established the lucrative nature of such ventures.

"Foreign investors will find in Jordan a hospitable environment with competitive investment incentive schemes," she added.

While Jordan has no problems in developing economic cooperation with Israel, the Kingdom is concerned over the "possible destabilizing effect of expanding disparities" between the economies of the two countries, she said.

This explains Jordan's "preference for a gradual and well-planned transition to open economic relations" with Israel, the minister said. "This could be done over a period of time that would allow addressing and resolving economic disparities as a precondition for successful cooperation."

"Our position emanates from our determination to make peace a durable one rather than from resistance to normalisation of relations," Dr. Hunaydi said. "It reflects our desire to forge peace based on a balance of prosperity for all."

UN Delegate on Request To Drop Mideast From Agenda

JN2609103294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, permanent representative to the United Nations, in New York, by Amman Radio correspondent Suhayl Khuri in the studio on 26 September—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah: The media have reported that there are currently attempts under way at the United Nations to drop from the UN agenda some [draft] UN resolutions regarding the Palestine question. Please, what is the truth of the matter?

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[Abu-'Awdah] In a letter addressed to UN members, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations voiced U.S. views on some topics listed on the agenda of the UN General Assembly's 49th session. Some of these topics concern the Middle East region, whereas others concern international matters, such as the UN budget, the United Nations' financial situation—which effects administrative reform within the United Nations—not to mention human rights issues, and other concerns. Nonetheless, there are other topics related to the Middle East and the Palestine question listed on this agenda. The U.S. delegate's letter expressed the view that such topics must be reconsidered in line with recent developments. Some of the proposals expressed in the U.S. delegate's views, such as deferring the discussion of some [draft] resolutions pertaining to Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, and sovereignty on Palestinian territory; that is, the issue of self-determination are unacceptable to us. We, as an Arab group, have been surprised by these views. The Arab group has debated this issue and adopted a stand on it. Meanwhile, some Arab states held a dialogue with the U.S. mission on the issue. In this dialogue, we communicated our views as Arabs. Our rationale was as follows: It is true that the discussion of the issues contained in the U.S. delegate's letter; namely, refugees, Jerusalem, settlements, and sovereignty on territory, was deferred to final status negotiations in accordance with the Oslo accord signed between the PLO and Israel. Nonetheless, the fact that their discussion was deferred does not mean that they are insignificant. As a matter of fact, their discussion has been deferred because they are important and thorny. The wisdom behind deferring the discussion of these issues reflected a desire on the negotiators' part not to undermine the momentum of the peace process. The reason was the fact that these issues are difficult and thorny. It was hoped that their discussion will be easier once the negotiators make progress in other areas in the peace process. Hence, the acceptance by the Palestinians or Arabs of deferring the discussion of some issues was not prompted by a belief that these issues were insignificant. As a matter of fact, these issues are significant and thorny. This acceptance reflected the Arab side's eagerness not to undermine the momentum of the peace process, and to render this process a success. We made this point clear to the Americans. We added that deferring a discussion of these issues, or dropping them from the agenda will, in effect, nullify international legitimacy. This is because these issues were addressed in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, they were upheld by international law.

'Sources' Deny Glider Infiltrated Into Israel

JN2609100194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Sep 94 pp 23, 27

[Text] Informed Jordanian sources have denied reports that a Jordanian glider infiltrated into the occupied territories. Dismissing these reports as unfounded, the sources ruled out claims that the glider was Jordnian.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, these sources said that it was most probably an Israeli glider on which the Israelis opened fire, forcing it to return where it came from. They said that the glider neither came from Jordanian territory nor fell there.

The sources added that it is well known that Jordanian gliders are allowed to fly only from 1400 to sunset. These gliders remain under the surveillance of the Marka Airport control tower. Therefore, it is quite unlikely that a Jordanian glider could fly as far as the border without being detected by the control tower.

The sources said investigation revealed that the glider was flying at a low altitude of 100 meters, thus avoiding radar detection. This supports the view that the glider was Israeli and that it returned to where it came from.

150-Man Security Force Departs for Haiti

JN2509130894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] His majesty the king has bidden farewell to a contingent of Public Security forces which left for Haiti to participate in the international peacekeeping forces there. At a farewell ceremony held at the Royal Police Academy in Amman today, his majesty wished success to the 150-man force in carrying out its peacekeeping duties. He noted that Jordan ranks the fifth in the world as far as the size of its participation in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. He said this is a fact which Jordanians should be proud of.

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State Department Cited on Envoy Not Returning

NC2509073294 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The U.S. State Department has notified the Lebanese Government that Ambassador Mark Hambley will not return to his position in Lebanon for personal reasons, said to be purely health-related. According to the newspaper AL-HAYAH, the United States has informed Lebanon that the development is not connected with bilateral relations and that Washington will expedite the appointment of Hambley's successor to head off any grim speculation in this regard.

Syrian Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Arrives on Short Visit

JN2509162094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Beirut this afternoon on a short visit to Lebanon. The foreign minister was received at the Syrian-Lebanese borders by a Lebanese delegation led by Environment Minister Salim Muqbil.

Briefs Leaders on Ross Talks

NC2509164894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived at Ba'bda Palace at 1700 today. He arrived at the Syrian-Lebanese borders at 1345 where he was received by Environment Minister Samir Muqbil on behalf of the president and the prime minister.

A meeting was held between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and al-Shar' immediately after the latter's arrival at Ba'bda. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri joined the meeting at 1715.

NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Jalal 'Assaf is now on the line to give us more details.

[Begin recording] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri joined the meeting at 1745. The meeting just ended a few minutes ago. The Syrian foreign minister briefed the Lebanese officials on the outcome of the talks held by U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus last week on the peace negotiations. Al-Shar's visit comes also on the eve of his departure for New York to attend the UN General Assembly sessions. [end recording]

Comments on Meeting

NC2509172994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 25 Sep 94

[News conference with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by unidentified correspondents following his meeting with Lebanese officials at B'abda presidential palace in Beirut on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] As part of the coordination and consultations between the leaders of the two sisterly states, President Hafiz al-Asad has asked me to convey a message to his brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi dealing with the developments in the peace process and issues of bilateral interest.

[Correspondent] We and you are about to travel to the UN General Assembly. On the eve of this trip and following [U.S. Middle East coordinator] Ross' visit, how would you assess the peace talks on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and how far have these talks gone?

[Al-Shar'] It is noticed that there is an interest in promoting the peace process along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and this is what U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross has told us. He also emphasized that President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher are interested in pushing forward the peace process and that the U.S. Administration pays particular attention to the Middle East peace process and treats it as one of its top foreign policy priorities.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] peace process a step forward. Are there new steps contemplated, considering that President Hafiz al-Asad has given rise to optimism and hope in this regard?

[Al-Shar'] There are no new steps. The discussion focused on the broad lines that make up the elements of the peace process. We followed up on the earlier discussions that took place when Secretary Christopher visited us. We will follow up these discussions in more detail in the coming trips of Secretary Christopher to Damascus.

[Correspondent] Could we say that Christopher's upcoming tour will be decisive?

[Al-Shar'] I cannot speculate that it will be decisive, but we hope that it will provide a chance to contribute to promoting the peace process and achieving the goal that the peace process set out to achieve; namely, to secure Israel's full withdrawal in accordance with the resolutions of international legality and the land for peace principle.

Concludes Visit

NC2509204794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Beirut this evening after a visit of several hours, during which he conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The message deals with developments in the peace process and other issues of common concern.

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Cypriot President Arrives, Meets al-Asad

JN2409120794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis arrived in Damascus on an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received the Cypriot president at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

At Tishrin Palace, President Hafiz al-Asad and President Kliridhis held a meeting, which was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and Agriculture Minister As'ad Musatafa. The meeting was attended on the Cypriot side by the official delegation accompanying the president.

Dinner Speeches Exchanged

JN2409192594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis exchanged speeches at the dinner banquet the president hosted in honor of his great guest. The following is the text of the president's welcoming speech:

Mr. President, it pleases me to welcome you and members of the Cypriot delegation warmly. I wish you a good stay in Syria, which has relations of friendship, cooperation, and neighborliness with Cyprus. Throughout the past years, we have been working to further promote these relations and to expand their prospects.

Your visit, Mr. President, is a pleasant opportunity that gives us the chance to know each other personally and to exchange views concerning the promotion of relations between our two countries and the current situation in the eastern Mediterranean region. We have always wanted this region in particular, and the Mediterranean basin in general, to be a region permeated by peace and free of hotbeds of tension and conflict.

Out of our faith in peace as being in the interest of all the region's peoples, we have called for peace and struggled for the sake of its achievement. We have never stopped our serious participation in the Middle East peace process that was launched in accordance with a U.S. initiative, and that is continuing under the auspices of the United States and Russia. The objective of our participation is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in our region that restores the occupied Arab territories to their owners and secures every sides' rights, and which is based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242.

Proceeding from this principle, Syria supports the efforts exerted through the United Nations to settle the current conflict in Cyprus based on UN resolutions in a way that guarantees the unity of Cyprus and its nonaligned status, and safeguards the interests of all the sons of Cyprus.

The exchange of delegations and visits at the government, party, and popular levels between our two countries has been an important factor in the promotion of Syrian-Cypriot relations. I am confident your visit will be a new landmark on the road of joint action in the interest of our countries as well as in the interest of peace and security in our region.

I once again welcome you, and wish you, Mr. President, continued good health and happiness, and continued prosperity for the friendly Cypriot people.

Finally, I ask you gentlemen to share me in greeting Syria's guest, President Glavkos Kliridhis.

In his speech, President Kliridhis said: Your excellency the president: I accepted the invitation to visit friendly Syria as president of the Republic of Cyprus. I had wanted to make your acquaintance, having studied your career and admired your achievements and your struggle for your country's territorial integrity and the betterment of the lot of your people and the pursuit of a permanent peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Our two peoples' history has parallels; we have many principles in common. We will not stand for a part of our national territory being reduced. Both of our countries want peace, but not at the expense of their territorial integrity. Peace can come only when it is sought within the framework of comprehensive solutions.

I completely share your view that peace will come only if it is durable and real and based on dignity. Our belief in this principle will bring peace. For this reason, I believe that our two countries will carry on their cooperation and mutual support for our two peoples' just struggle for freedom and justice. At the same time, our two neighboring countries this evening reconfirm the strength of their relations in various economic, commercial, social security, agricultural, and health areas.

Our talks today were very useful. I thank you for your understanding and cooperation. On behalf of the Cypriot people and myself, I thank you for Syria's solidarity with the struggle of Cyprus. I am certain that I speak for the Cypriot people, who would like to see you make an official visit to Cyprus. I now repeat my invitation for you to visit Cyprus. I will be most obliged by your acceptance of my invitation.

At 1645 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace the Cypriot president and his delegation. [passage omitted]

Talks Reported

JN2409211294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis and the

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delegation accompanying him at the People's Palace at 1845 today. [passage omitted]

Following this meeting, the Syrian side led by President Hafiz al-Asad and the Cypriot side led by President Glavkos Kliridhis, held an official round of talks. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means of promoting them in the interest of the two countries' peoples, the situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin, and the Middle East peace process.

The Cypriot side expressed support for Syria's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The two sides also discussed the Cypriot issue. The Syrian side expressed Syria's support for the efforts to resolve the Cypriot issue in accordance with the UN resolutions in a way which guarantees Cyprus' territorial integrity and the interests of all its citizens.

Arab 'Sources' Lament Oslo-Cairo Agreement

JN2409150794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 sep 94 pp 1, 25

[Report by Dawud al-Mani from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Arab political sources in Damascus have said there is still a very wide and very deep gap in the Syrian-Lebanese negotiating track with Israel.

These sources told the AL-RA'Y correspondent in Damascus that Israel still refuses to clearly announce a withdrawal to the pre-4 June 1967 borders. The sources said Israel is, as usual, playing an expansionist game by differentiating between the 4 June 1967 borders and the international borders; that it is presenting itself as the inheritor of all Palestine under mandate; and that it wants to continue negotiations with each Arab country based on the borders of Palestine under mandate.

These sources expressed their deep sadness because the Oslo-Cairo agreement gave Israel all the cards it needs to negotiate in this direction. They said this agreement limited the Palestinian territories under dispute. They can no longer be viewed as occupied, as UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and other international legitimacy resolutions stipulate. [passage omitted]

Paper Says al-Asad Dismissed Intelligence Chief

JN2509114394 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has relieved Major General Majid Sa'id, head of the General Intelligence Department, from his post, and replaced him with Major General Bashir al-Najjar. The reason for this decision is unknown. President al-Asad had earlier pensioned off a number of ranking Army officers. Most prominent among them were Major General 'Ali Haydar, who was replaced by Major General 'Ali Habib, and Major General Shafiq Fayyad.

Washington Urged To Play 'More Active Role'

NC2309120794 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Damascus, Sept 23 (AFP)—An official Syrian newspaper on Friday [23 September] criticized the US peace efforts in the Middle East, saying Washington should play a more active role.

"The gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions will remain wide as long as the Israelis believe their occupation of Arab territories is legitimate and the US diplomatic effort does not change from that of transmitting information," the ruling party's AL-BA'TH said.

At the end of a shuttle to Syria and Israel, US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross on Wednesday [21 September] dashed hopes of a quick breakthrough with a warning that it would take time to bridge "real gaps" between the two countries.

"We are headed in the right direction, but there are real gaps that remain. There is a great deal of work to be done and it's going to take time," said Ross, ahead of a visit next month by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

AL-BA'TH said Syria "appreciates the American efforts and wishes it success, but we feel that Israel, armed to the teeth, is trying to impose its conditions, and that's something we will refuse."

Firmness Demanded To Promote Peace Efforts

JN2509113194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Mere Words Cannot Achieve Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The statement the U.S. secretary of state has made on his forthcoming tour of the region, based on the report submitted to him by Dennis Ross, shows that the U.S. Administration is seriously pursuing the efforts to promote the peace process. Ross has been careful not to leak any information regarding the outcome of his recent Middle East tour, and so has Secretary of State Christopher, who only noted the seriousness of the parties concerned. Despite this, we would like to say that the statements made by Israeli officials prior to and after Ross's tour are not indicative of a serious desire on Israel's part to achieve peace. These statements have underlined Israel's notorious noncommitment to the peace initiative, as well as its refusal to comply with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, which constitute the backbone of this initiative.

AL-BA'TH adds: Hence, observers can safely say that the gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions are still wide. As far as Syria is concerned, it has spared no effort to promote stability and security in the region. Leader al-Asad has repeatedly underlined this. He has also

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reiterated it in the welcoming speech he delivered at the dinner he hosted in honor of the Cypriot president.

The paper concludes by saying: The international community has long demanded that Israel subscribe to the principles and bases of the peace process. Nonetheless, Israel has failed to do so. Israel has failed to make any serious move in the direction of complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses Israeli procrastination on the peace process, saying: Three years after the launching of the political process at the Madrid conference, after 12 rounds of bilateral peace talks in Washington, and after several fruitless tours of the region by U.S. envoys, it should no longer be acceptable for anyone to dwell for long on the abstract terms and concepts Israel is using to promote certain ideas and proposals, such as painful concessions, in the course of the efforts to promote the stalemated and deadlocked talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, particularly since those who authored these terms and concepts are the very people who are behind the perpetuation of the Middle East conflict.

The paper adds: The peace process, the efforts of the U.S. cosponsor, and even the relevant international legitimacy resolutions continue to mark time. They have been held hostage to the Israeli policy. They are captive of the Tel Aviv rulers' whimsical conduct. Israel has continued to procrastinate, prevaricate, fabricate crises, create excuses, and engage others in futile debate to evade the requirements of peace, and any commitment mandating withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories, as well as compliance with the wishes and resolutions of the international community.

The paper concludes by saying: Given all this, it has become necessary for words and pledges to be matched with deeds to make the party that is obstructing settlement efforts demonstrate full and total compliance with the relevant UN resolutions. This requires a measure of firmness to bring the peace process back on track. This would thwart the Israeli rulers' schemes once and for all. By so doing, the cause of peace and security, which cannot be achieved unless Israel effects complete and full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, would be promoted.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the referendum the Israeli Government plans to hold on withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, saying: The history of peoples and conflicts has never registered any precedent in which a referendum was held asking the public to either approve or disapprove of the occupation of others' territory. Since time immemorial, the Golan has been Syrian territory. Besides, the United Nations has recognized the Syrian identity of the Golan in many of the resolutions it has passed. In many of these resolutions, it deemed Israel's annexation of the Golan null and void, and called on Israel to withdraw its troops from it. Proceeding from the aforementioned facts, any referendum that Israel might hold on the Golan will be null and void, and in contravention of UN conventions, as well as the principles governing ties among members of the international community. There is no law in the world that sanctions aggression, occupation, and usurpation, or legitimizes occupation on the pretext of achieving security.

The paper adds: In word and deed, Syria has underscored its quest for just peace, because it has faith in the sacredness of peace, and also because it believes in the need to remove the Middle East out of the vicious circle of wars and conflicts. Syria has only demanded the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which are enshrined in the U.S. peace initiative. The entire world, just like Arabs everywhere, supports Syria in its principled and fair position.

The paper concludes by saying: No arrangement that fails to lead to the dismantlement of the occupation and the restoration of the occupied territories can bring peace, and has no chance of becoming viable. It would only lead the region to further catastrophes and setbacks. This is because for it to be viable, peace has to be just and comprehensive. Moreover, it has to be acceptable to both present and future generations. It must also lay the groundwork for stability and prosperity.

Peres Statements on Golan Pullout Criticized

JN2409085594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 gmt 24 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "Peace is a Practice on the Ground," TISHRIN says that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has admitted that every Israeli knows that without withdrawal from the Golan Heights, peace cannot be achieved. It is quite evident that Peres is not the only Israeli official who has admitted this; many Israeli officials have made similar statements.

TISHRIN stresses that peace cannot be achieved by words or resounding statements. Rather, peace is a practice, measures, and steps on the ground. Peace means a genuine and sincere implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative based on the principle of trading land for peace. Therefore, the Israeli officials' admissions and statements about peace will offer nothing new unless they are associated with practical stands and a full response to the requirements of peace.

TISHRIN says that while all other parties are serious and sincere about peace, the Israelis, so far, have not been. This is clearly shown by their policy and maneuvers. While admitting that there will be no peace without withdrawal from the Golan, Peres attempts to abolish this fact in the same statement, in which he said that the Israeli Government and the Labor Party support a Golan compromise and partial withdrawal. In other words,

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according to Peres, Israeli does not accept full withdrawal from the Golan and will not adopt this principle. Rather, Israel is willing to offer a partial withdrawal and supports a compromise.

TISHRIN notes that Israel is still wagering on phased settlements and partial solutions to keep the occupied Arab territories and turn withdrawal into a redeployment of the Israeli Army in these territories, following the example of the Oslo agreement and the subsequent declarations and agreements which seek to abolish Palestinian rights to their territory.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that the Israeli maneuvers, continued occupation, and sugar-coated words cannot make peace. Peace can only be achieved through an explicit and full Israeli commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and through an unequivocal statement expressing Israel's readiness for total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

In an article under the headline "Adherence to Rights," AL-THAWRAH says: The wave of Israeli officials' statements on regional peace have added no credibility and offered nothing to prove a change in the Israeli political mentality adhering to the occupation. For the past three years, Israel has confined its interest to implementing its basic schemes to establish a Zionist base in the form of a greater Jewish state.

AL-THAWRAH says: Israeli leaders continue to assert that the alternative to negotiations with the Arabs is war, relying on their military superiority, including the possession of nuclear weapons, in order to impose the status quo.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that in the peace talks, Israel, as ever, demands normalization and economic, cultural, and tourist cooperation without admitting that there are occupied Arab territories and usurped Palestinian rights. This is absolutely proved by Israel's emphasis on multilateral negotiations and the clauses of the Oslo agreement.

AL-THAWRAH says this Israeli policy completely contradicts its leaders' allegations, especially the recent ones, about their interest in peace and good-neighborly relations with the states surrounding them. These words are very different from their deeds.

AL-THAWRAH recalls Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' statement on the need for total withdrawal from the Golan to achieve peace and his indication that his government and the Labor Party support a Golan compromise and partial withdrawal.

AL-THAWRAH asks: What does Peres want to market through this statement? Does he want to convince Zionist leaders around the world that the Israelis are no longer able to launch war and aggression because this has brought them no security and stability? Does he want to convince them that adherence to the policy of aggression has precluded the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region and caused death and anxiety for the Israelis? Or does he want to extort Syria by saying that the Israeli Government and the Labor party support a compromise on the Golan?

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria adheres to the just, comprehensive peace about which leader al-Asad impressively and explicitly talked during and after the October war. Syria rejects extortion. It is committed to the achievement of peace, but not at any price. Syria wants a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi.

Israeli Quick Pullout From Golan Called Necessary

JN2309151294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is not enough for Peres to admit that peace will not be achieved without withdrawal from the Golan. It is also not enough for Rabin to make a statement about the importance of peace with Syria. Neither is it enough for Ehud Olmert or other Israeli officials to say Israel is about to agree to return the Golan Heights to Syria.

We say it is not enough for the Israelis to admit all this. It is necessary to take clearly defined positions, beginning by accepting the UN resolutions and ending with a serious, responsible, and quick withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and occupied southern Lebanon within a period of time that does not take more than the time taken by a practical withdrawal [al-insihab al-'amali]. This time should not be as long as some Israeli officials propose. Otherwise, the gaps that Dennis Ross, the U.S. special Middle East coordinator, spoke about following a meeting with Rabin will continue to be big gaps.

Israel has continued its occupation of the land. Israel has not yet withdrawn from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories. At the same time, it has concluded deals on the land it is occupying. This is rejected. Syria and Lebanon do not accept this. Consequently, the peace agreements that have been reached so far continue to be shaken by the wind. This will continue to be the case as long as the land is occupied and the rights are usurped.

Based on our experience during many years of the peace process and the U.S. Administration's initiative, we say that describing the talks and dialogues that U.S. officials hold as good, constructive, etc., does not push the peace process forward. These terms have lost their meanings. The international community has become dutybound to further define and specify the situation by holding the one who obstructs the peace process responsible and forcing it to present full facts to international public opinion. We believe this is the second part of the U.S. role. This is because the gaps Dennis Ross has spoken about will continue to be large as long as Israel is still occupying the land, denying rights, and evading the

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simplest requirements and bases of the peace whose march was launched three years ago.

If Israel is really concerned about achieving the objective of the peace that the entire world is seeking—out of concern for the security and stability that guarantees all sides' interests—then it should know the right path that bridges gaps and eliminates obstacles, that begins with comprehensive withdrawal from national Syrian and Lebanese soils, and returns to the 1967 situation. Otherwise, the gaps will expand and the obstacles will increase and grow larger. Consequently, the available peace prospects will be lost and the region will enter the tunnels of the unknown on which Israel is wagering because it covets the land.

Can the Israelis move from the age of illusions to the age of fact? Today, the most important fact is that there will be no peace before the occupation is eliminated and the land and the rights are restored. There will be no peace without Syria and Lebanon.

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Afghanistan

Government, Opposition Forces Continue Fighting

Mazari Forces' Posts Seized in Kabul

LD2309172094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] During clashes in western Kabul, several positions of Mazari's forces, including a strategic position in the vicinity of Koh-e Dom, were seized

According to reports reaching BIA, mojahedin of the Wahdat-e Eslami and forces of the Harakat-e Eslami today seized several positions of Mazari's forces in the Mirwais Maydan [word indistinct], including a strategic position in the vicinity of Kabul University.

During today's operation, the mojahedin killed dozens of Mazari's men and seized large amounts of weapons and ammunition. Eyewitnesses say that Mazari's men completely lost their combat morale and are fleeing their trenches on most fronts.

Opposition Repulsed in Paktia

LD2409172694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency from Paktia Province say that the Golboddin-Dostam militia launched an unsuccessful attack yesterday on the units of Jaji's division, Paktia Province. This attack met shameful defeat by the courageous resistance of the mojahedin and personnel of the above division. The defamed militia received heavy losses of life and material.

The report adds: This failed attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militia put an unpleasant effect on the people and mojahedin in this province. The Ulema, Jehadi commanders, and Muslim people of Jaji expressed their repulsion against this anti-Islamic attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militia. The people displayed their readiness to defend their locations and the positions of the Islamic army.

It should be mentioned that the Jehadi division of Jaji is one of the long-established divisions of the mojahedin in this region formed to safeguard and defend the mojahedin's convoys. The aggressive soldiers of the Red Army, like Golboddin-Dostam militia, embarked on attacking the mojahedin in this division several times. The Red Army did not gain anything except defeat in each occasion.

Rival Groups Continue Fighting Around Kabul

LD2409165194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Fighting between rival groups in west and southwest Kabul has continued for the 11th day, and many people's houses have been turned into trenches.

According to a report by the Central New Unit, in some areas in west Kabul, house-to-house fighting has been going on. At the same time, fighting to gain control of the strategic areas overlooking a Scud missile base and the Kabul University is in progress between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and General Dostam's force on the one hand and the joint forces of the Harakat-e Eslami, Supervisory Council, and the Jam'iyat-e Eslami on the other.

Sayyaf's coalition forces also have been launching artillery attacks against the positions of the Hezb-e Wahdat in support of the government and Harakat-e Eslami forces in the past few days, causing the death of many people.

Afghan Government aircraft bombarded the positions of the opposite side around the Scud hill yesterday.

Dostam Militia Chief Killed

LD2509150194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] In the course of a failed attack by Dostam's militias in Sholgara district, Balkh Province, a famous militia commander, Mohammad Ebrahim known as Kandak, was killed.

According to reports received by Bakhtar Information Agency, recently Dostam's militias resorted to an attack on Sholgara district. The aggressors' attack was foiled as a result of resistance shown by mojahedin.

In the course of this failed attack, six militiamen were killed and eight others badly injured in the village of Sakani in that district. Fifteen militiamen were arrested by mojahedin along with their weapons.

This attack was foiled as a result of heroism shown by commanders Gholam, Abdul Ghafour, Hajji Eman, Abdul Samad, and Mohammad Wali.

Iranian Envoy Said To Negotiate Kabul Cease-Fire

LD2409165994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Sources of Afghanistan's Hezb-e-Wahdat-e Eslami announced that following mediation by the Iranian ambassador to Kabul, fighting in west Kabul came to an end today and a cease-fire was established between rival forces.

The fighting started on the morning of 14 September in Darolaman in south and Dehmazang in west Kabul between Hezb-e-Wahdat and the joint forces of Ettehad-e Eslami Sayyaf and Shura-e Nezar.

The Afghan sources said today a delegation of senior representatives from the rival groups has entered Kabul to study the cause of the fighting.

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Our embassy in Kabul is trying to bring a negotiated end to the current fighting, which has caused great damage and casualties among west Kabul residents.

Bangladesh

Shots Reportedly Fired at Opposition Leader's Train

BK2409080794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 24 (AFP)—Unidentified assailants fired shots at a train carrying Bangladesh's main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, but she was unhurt in the attack, witnesses and newspaper reports said Saturday.

"They want to shoot me to silence the democratic campaign" the Awami League (AL) party chief was quoted as saying by the Banglabazar Patrika newspaper, blaming the Bangladeshi government for being behind the "terrorist" attack.

The mass circulation daily Ittefaq newspaper, quoting reporters travelling with Wajed, said supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) fired pistol shots at the leader's carriage and exploded home-made bombs.

The activists also allegedly disrupted Wajed's meet-the-electorate campaign by train in western and northern Bangladesh, causing violent clashes that left some 100 people injured, press reports said.

A government spokesman said that soon after the incident government leaders held a meeting and decided to provide additional security for the opposition leader. "We cannot take chances," the spokesman said.

Police in Ishurdi town told AFP late Friday by telephone that they had fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse clashing students loyal to the BNP and the AL.

They said clashes erupted after AL student supporters were attacked by rival "miscreants" as they marched towards the station to welcome their leader.

One police officer denied reports that 100 people were injured in the clashes, but said home-made bombs were exploded during the violence.

Local security sources said the attackers were believed to be student supporters of the BNP. Tension prevailed in the small town in Pabna district.

Wajed, who launched the campaign to drum up support for opposition demands for elections under a neutral interim administration, was greeted by thousands of supporters in Khulna and other stops along the way, witnesses said.

The opposition, which has boycotted parliament for more than six months to push its demands, allege that free elections are impossible under Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government.

Meanwhile, several hundred AL supporters took to the streets of Dhaka late Friday to protest the incident, witnesses said.

Zia is scheduled to launch her own campaign later Saturday in northeastern Sylhet district, officials said.

Ministry Rejects Report

BK2509103194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] A preliminary investigation report shows there is no truth in the allegation of the opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, that the train she was traveling in on Friday [23 September] last was fired upon.

A press note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dhaka last night says leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad [National Parliament] and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, left Khulna by train on Friday morning for Saidpur. She held a number of wayside meetings in peaceful atmosphere at different railway stations. Sufficient number of police force were mobilized for her safe journey in the train and at the stations.

The press note said unruly supporters of some opposing political parties were engaged in chases and counter chases at Ishurdi and Nator railway stations and adjoining areas some hours before the arrival of the train carrying the leader of the opposition. The situation became normal following necessary stringent measures taken immediately by the on-duty police and the magistrate. Law and order situation was normal when leader of the opposition addressed meetings organized at Ishurdi and Nator railway stations, the press note added.

Iran

Yazdi Warns Saudis on Islands; Responds to Clinton

LD2309145094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Second sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, from Tehran Friday prayer services—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In the recent Persian Gulf Cooperation Council session, the Saudi foreign minister made certain remarks which some of you may have heard. In this connection, I say that the whole world should know about an issue that they revive and talk about every once in a while.

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First, there are more than 150 such disputes in the world, and it is always said that they should be resolved through talks. But when it concerns us, they make provocative moves every day about such a clear-cut issue because of their evil aims, or to justify the presence of arrogance in the Persian Gulf. Those who live around the Persian Gulf in particular should know that before the UAE became independent those islands were Iranian, belonged to Iran, and were under Iran's sovereignty. And so they are today, and so they shall remain. No one can have the right, no one has the right to do the slightest thing that might undermine this sovereignty. [Crowd chants: God is great; Khamene'i is the leader; death to America; death to Israel; other indistinct slogans]

We say to those who are influenced by provocations of arrogance and make certain remarks every once in a while: They once incited somebody in the region and started that strange war, and you saw the eight-year defense; and it became clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not a country with which arrogance can trifle again.

Watch yourselves. What were the strong able to do? Your condition is obvious. We have repeatedly said that we are ready for talks. Come and say your piece, hear the facts, and end the matter. If some people say things every day and provoke you, you should know that they do not care about you; they care about their own interests and about justifying what they have done. It's analysis is another matter.

Mr. Clinton has written a letter to American senators expressing concern and unhappiness over the situation of what they call sectarian minorities and what we call religious minorities in Iran. After expressing his concern and unhappiness, he has said certain other things, such as: something should be done. This is what I have to say to him: This is very surprising. You should at least understand a system of government, what words mean, and, especially, the issues raised in the Constitution. Recognized and official religions are clear in our Constitution, their situation is known. Religious minorities enjoy more rights in our country than anywhere else in the world. This is what they themselves, their officials, and their representatives in the Islamic Consultative Majles, say.

Why do you say something before thinking about it? Religions are treated differently than are parties and groups. And even regarding parties and groups, we have laws in our country, we have regulations. They can get authorization from the Interior Ministry and, based upon that, they can engage in certain activities. You are mixing up a number of issues that are not worthy of you for other objectives.

You say you care that the rights of religious minorities are not observed in Iran. Where were you when our people were attacked and the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and terrorists carried out those shameless crimes? You did not utter a word. You do not utter a word when the Serbs carry out such horrific crimes against the Muslims. [passage omitted]

What can we say about the French education minister's remarks? Of course, it is no surprise coming from him. Well, I suppose there is room for surprise when he says Muslim girls cannot enter schools with their Islamic hijab. Muslims form a considerable portion of that country's population. Why can't they? This is an issue of freedom. Choosing one's clothing is one's choice, as long as it does not offend public decency. You, who claim to defend freedom and rights, how can you say that a Muslim cannot dress according to her religion's guidelines and wear a headscarf to school? Anyway, perhaps it is not that surprising coming from them. Fortunately, as you have heard, a number of their own judicial officials have told off their interior minister.

However, when one sees a Muslim country that has a certain high standing among Arab Muslim states...[changes thought] The interior minister, I mean the education minister, of such a country, Egypt, says: Well, yes, we have to oppose Islamists. Going to school with a chador or headscarf is the act of Islamists and they cannot go to school dressed like that. This is what I have to say to him: If you are a Muslim—and you are—abide by the Koran. The Koran sets standards accepted by all the world's Muslims. No one can oppose the Koran's absolute decrees, let alone you or any one higher than you. The Koran gives God's laws. [passage omitted]

Habibi, Turkish Official on Border Security

LD2509154394 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—First Vice President Hasan Habibi and visiting Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Bekir Aksoy in a meeting here Sunday underlined the need to expand mutual cooperation in political, economic and security areas.

The official arrived here Sunday morning at the head of a delegation to participate in the first session of the Iran-Turkey high security commission.

Habibi stressed the need for the commission to regularly meet and for materialization of agreements previously reached between Iran, Turkey and Pakistan on campaign against production and smuggling of narcotic drugs.

He said exchange of political, economic and security delegations between the two countries could pave the way for consolidation of bilateral ties.

Aksoy said the talks between the Turkish and Iranian delegates to the high security commission indicated the importance the two countries attach to the preservation of security on their border.

He said there were political will in both countries to broaden bilateral cooperation in various fields.

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Agreement Noted on Cooperation

LD2509180794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] The visiting Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Bekir Aksoy said in Tehran today: Turkey will not permit various groups opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran to be active on Turkey's territory.

According to a the Central News Unit report, Aksoy made the remarks at a joint news conference attended by 'Ali Reza Tabesh, our country's deputy interior minister for political-security affairs this afternoon.

Referring to the supreme security session that was held in Tehran today, Aksoy stressed the need for expansion of cooperation between the two countries in security matters.

Aksoy termed the outcome of his meetings with the Iranian officials as positive and pointed out that there was full understanding between the two countries' officials. He also stressed the need for upgrading bilateral ties in this field. He said: We believe that greater cooperation between the two powerful states, Iran and Turkey, would serve the interests of the two sides.

Tabesh, too, stressed that opponents of the Turkish Government will be prevented from engaging in activities in Iran.

Referring to one of the agreements reached with the Turkish side, Tabesh said: It was agreed that Iran and Turkey, by setting up a joint committee to combat narcotics, would prevent drug trafficking and smuggling along the two countries' joint border.

Relations with United States Assessed

NC2409092294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Islamic Revolution Has Roots—We Wish To Have Talks!"]

[Text] Last night the American radio admitted: "The Islamic Revolution in Iran has very deep roots and the current ruling party in Iran and its political divisions are also deeply rooted."

The American radio also stated: A series of specific policies have been envisaged by the U.S. Government with regard to the Iranian Government.

This stance, proclaimed by Robert Pelletreau, director general for Near East and South Asian affairs in the U.S. State Department [as published], clearly indicates that the United States is seeking to elucidate for the international community and for the Iranian Government that the U.S. Administration is in favor of talks with Iran.

He stated: The United States wishes to have official, face-to-face talks with Iran. The American radio said: This is Washington's official stance with regard to Iran.

From time to time such signals from Washington are perceived. Our topic today deals with the messages they convey:

The U.S. objection to the Islamic Revolution having roots is an interesting point, and it rebuts Western propaganda seeking to give the impression that the Revolution has lost its position.

The West and foreign radios have in recent months spewed out a profusion of analyses based on a few incidents that occurred, in order to depict Iran as lacking political stability. They have tried to conjure up the blackest picture of the country's economy, as if to say that Iran is in the throes of a chronic famine!

Now they say that the political division—by which they mean the division of power—has deep roots!

They have admitted that these roots cannot be eradicated. The question arises: Why do they wish to have relations and talks with Islamic Iran after admitting the above?

Why do they wish to tell the international community that they desire face-to-face talks with Tehran? Where does this U.S. thirst for talks stem from? The fact that the Revolution has roots does not need confirmation from the Americans. So why the need to make the international community understand this? The Islamic Revolution has roots in the "international community," and this is what has terrified the United States!

The West in general and the United States and Britain in particular have carried out a covert politico-military maneuver [preceding word in English] against Islamic Iran in the past quarter of the current year. By supporting the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization), they have labored under the delusion that they were destroying the political system in our country, but these dastardly actions were foiled.

The Americans and the British endured the humiliation of supporting the Monafeqin terrorists, but they were not daunted. Similarly, their plot was neutralized in the explosion incident in Argentina. Today they have realized that "Islamic thinking has attained extraordinary influence in the world and is currently considered a danger to the Western world."

They are forced to convey to the international community that they do not harbor hostility toward Iran! They have been forced to accept that "Islam is an international law with a specific social system for all the people, which encompasses a population of more than 1.2 billion on this earth, from southern Europe to West Africa and most parts of Asia."

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The issue of relations and talks with the United States has been repeatedly rejected by his eminence the great leader and by other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The reason for this categorical and revolutionary stance is that, regardless of who has the upper hand in these talks, the important question is whether the talks are important for us in the sense of providing value or enhancing our position.

We cannot have talks with a government the leaders of which have a brutal and arrogant attitude toward the governments and nations of the world. We do not concur with the U.S. perspective on shaping the power balance in the world and we say "no" to it.

Our call to the people of the world to combat these belligerent U.S. policies and our perseverance in this hallowed objective has carved a superior position for us in today's world. It is for this reason that Iran is, on one hand, the focus of international attention, and on the other, the target of the malice and rancor of the great powers. The United States has no recourse but to come to terms with Iran so that it can inflict a blow on Islamic Iran's international prestige!

The first precondition propounded by the Americans for talks with Tehran is for Iran to accept the so-called peace trend in the Middle East.

First, the scenario that the Americans have compiled for so- called peace in the Middle East is impractical. This is because the uprising of the combatant Palestinian Muslims has placed a question mark over such a peace.

Second, the Muslim people in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and so on will not be coerced by such pressure into bestowing recognition on the rule of a handful of butchers over the occupied territories.

Third, they insist that Islamic Iran concur with their nefarious objectives. This is mainly because it is important for them that they be able to claim that the sole government that has been a serious flag-bearer of anti-Zionism has been beaten to the ground, and therefore the people of the occupied territories should surrender!

The Islamic Republic of Iran can never sign a document for the usurpation of the homeland of a Muslim nation.

Thus, such preconditions will never be realized and the Americans can keep on waiting for the realization of their hopes of sitting at the negotiating table with Islamic Iran.

Atomic Energy Official Denies Posession of Arms

LD2309162094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Amrollahi, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, has strongly denied Iran's lack of commitment to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said it is America that does not carry out its commitments.

In an interview with an IRNA correspondent, he said: If America believed in the treaty it would not put nuclear arms and the nuclear know-how for acquiring such arms at the disposal of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Mr. Amrollahi, who is visiting Vienna to attend the annual IAEA conference, added: America puts pressure on the IAEA to end its cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it is trying to transfer the agency's nuclear inspection department to the control of the United Nations—but the IAEA is not bowing to America's bullying.

He strongly rejected the American and Zionist regime's accusations against Iran, which purport that Iran has acquired nuclear arms, and said: The IAEA has confirmed Iran's stance many times.

Envoy Protests IAEA Assistance for Israel

LD2409082894 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 24, IRNA—Iran's acting head of delegation, Mohammad Sadegh Ayatollahi, to the 38th International Atomic energy Agency (IAEA) general conference, strongly protested here Friday to the adoption of a resolution for the restoration of agency's technical assistance to Israel.

Ayatollahi told the conference that the same reasons that caused the loss of such privileges still remains and hence, Israel's request for its restoration should not be accepted.

He added that Israel has been receiving all kinds of technical assistance in nuclear technology, at least for the past couple of decades, but not for peaceful applications in nuclear energy, and hence the world has been concerned with the threat to peace from nuclear weaponery of a hostile regime in a peace-seeking region of the Middle East.

Ayatollahi expressed regret that at least some nuclear weapons states have been involved in transfer of material, equipment and technology for non-peaceful applications of nuclear energy to Israel in violation of the non-proliferation treaty, causing disappointment among non-nuclear-weapon states party to NPT, especially the non-aligned countries.

However, he stressed, Iran is concerned that the Israeli nuclear threat and weapons capability together with the stubbornness shown against application of agency safeguards, if continued, will jeopardize all aspirations for long lasting peace in the region.

The conference president, Alec Jean Baer, despite strong calls by Iran, Qatar, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Jordan for a roll call, adopted the resolution without a vote saying that the conference is ready to restore technical assistance to Israel.

Saudi Arabia was the only country who spoke in favour of restoring agency's technical assistance to Israel, and against a roll call.

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The agency ceased its assistance to Israel, when Zionist fighter aircrafts attacked and destroyed an Iraqi nuclear facility. The draft resolution was submitted by Israel.

The IAEA general conference, which started work here Monday, is scheduled to finish Friday.

U.S. Remarks on Nuclear Program Criticized

NC2409141494 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 18 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Contradictory Utterances"]

[Text] The head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has rejected the report and investigative findings of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]—compiled after an unrestricted inspection by its technicians and experts—on the lack of evidence of activity geared toward the attainment of nuclear weapons on the part of Iran. This indicates the belligerent policies of the U.S. in the area of international relations and issues.

This assumes greater importance when viewed against the backdrop of the U.S. Government's feud with countries such as North Korea and others, in which it formulated its political and propagandistic stances on the basis of the same organization's reports.

The basic question that arises is: Why is it that the United States does not consider the report of this organization on Iran valid and insists on continuing its erroneous and illogical policies and propaganda?

The remarks by John Holme [name as published] in an interview with American radio contain contradictory and simplistic rhetoric. On the one hand, this American official says there is no evidence of any advanced country cooperating in the sale of nuclear weapons to Iran and that it would be logical to accept the fact that Iran will not have the capability to produce nuclear weapons in the next 10 years. On the other hand, he considers Iran's activities a warning. Holme attributes the deepest concern on the part of the United States to a press report that claimed that Iran had purchased nuclear weapons manufactured by Kazakhstan, while at the same time conceding that there is no evidence to confirm this.

Such conflicting remarks by a U.S. official are part of a series of political and biased threats, but there is no doubt that such remarks have no place in world public opinion.

Israeli Influence on U.S. Arms Policy Criticized

LD2509100494 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 25 Sep, (IRNA)—A morning daily Sunday wrote that any time an Arab country wants to buy any advanced American weaponry, the Zionist lobby raises such hell in the U.S. that the finalizing of the military contracts with Arabs is postponed even though the contracts would mean providing bread and butter to thousands of jobless Americans.

"To please the Zionist lobby, American politicians are prepared to disillusion their Arab friends and anger their jobless constituency," said TEHRAN TIMES.

It said that U.S. hypocrisy becomes evident when we consider that nowhere in the annals of U.S. relations with the Zionist entity has Washington dared to speak against the sinister nuclear program that Tel Aviv has pursued.

Referring to the U.S. and Zionists stockpiles of nuclear weapons, the paper said the two regimes are using the issue of Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program as a smokescreen.

On the contrary, it wrote, Iran has not only allowed the Interational Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to check its nuclear facilities on a regular basis, but it has spearheaded efforts to declare the Middle East a nuclear-weapon free zone.

Iran's record speaks for itself, it said adding that the Islamic Republic has shown its goodwill and fair-minded people believe that Iran is not to blame for any lack of cooperation with international agencies.

It concluded by saying that it is the U.S., the country which has used nuclear weapons twice against innocent civilians, and the Zionist regime, the country which has kept its nuclear program a secret which should be on the docket.

Pakistan

Bhutto Hails U.S. Energy Secretary's Visit

BK2409150894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Sixteen agreements involving an investment of about $4 billion were signed today between Pakistan and the United States for cooperation in energy and power generation sectors. Representatives of American private and Pakistan's public and private sectors signed the agreements at a ceremony held at the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the U.S. secretary for energy, Ms. Hazel O'Leary, were present on the occasion besides members of the U.S. presidential mission. The minister for water and power, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar; Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan; and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs Mr. Shahid Hassan Khan were also present. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described the agreement as a landmark in the country's history of foreign investment:

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[Begin Bhutto recording] The contract that has been signed today as the memorandums of understanding come to nearly $4 billion, which is a landmark in the history of Pakistan in private sector investment within one year. Well it is a landmark even in five years, but the fact that it has taken place in one year is an indication of how, under the economic management of this government, we expect the economy to expand. Today Pakistan is a country which offers macroeconomic stability, and macroeconomic stability can only come about if a government has the popular support to take the harsh measures that are necessary to put the economy on track. [end recording]

Referring to Pak-U.S. relations, the prime minister said the visit of the U.S. energy secretary has given new dimension to these relations:

[Begin Bhutto recording] Her visit here signifies the broadening of Pakistan and American relationship. This relationship is not on single focus anymore. This relationship is a multidimensional relationship and Ms. O'Leary's entire delegation has really given substance to the multidimensional aspect of our relationship. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Visit Said Aimed at Better Ties

BK2509122394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Sep 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Redefining Pak-US ties"]

[Text] The worth of the five-day visit of the US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and the exceptionally large number of investors and officials, nearly 80, is more than the three billion dollar investment that will come to Pakistan as a result of various agreements signed between the two sides. The visit jump-starts the Pak-US relations that had been logjammed for the last seven years. By sending its energy secretary, the first ministerial member of the Bill Clinton administration and the first of any administration in the last seven years to come to Islamabad, the US government has sent a strong signal that it rates Pakistan important for better reasons than its geo-strategic location. This spells a refreshsing change in the narrow approach successive US governments adopted towards Pakistan, which did not see life for bilateral ties beyond military aid and strategic collaboration. Another positive change in the US attitude is a deliberate effort to shield potential fields of co-operation with Pakistan from the malignant effects of unresolved controversies, like on the nuclear issue. That Ms O'Leary's entourage was designated as a Presidential Mission shows this new intent and purpose.

For Pakistan the visit was significant for other reasons too. To begin with this highlighted the success of the diplomatic effort, that began under the Moin Qureshi caretaker government and shifted into top gear under Ms Bhutto, to heave ties with the US out of their rut of rancour and distrust. It was less than a year-and-a- half ago that Pakistan was living under the constant threat of being declared a terrorist state—a far cry from today when US businessmen are falling over each other to invest heavily in Pakistan, and when its officials have lavish words of praise for the country. Further, the US private investment in Pakistan should boost our diplomatic efforts to get our point of view across to the Clinton administration on other issues as well. Part of the reason Pakistan got raw deals at the hands of various US governments was that it never had any local vested interest supporting its cause in the US—just what the US business in the energy sector will give us now.

And last but not least, the visit has afforded us a unique opportunity to redefine our relations with the US and root them in a balanced ground. For far too long had these relations been developing along the patron-client lines, and on which Pakistan's dependence on the US military aid had become a mark of diplomatic shame. This has changed now as new avenues of co-operation open up in the economic field. What we have here is pure business, in which there are no patrons and clients, only partners. This changing profile of Pak-US ties can be attributed to the vision the two governments have shown which their predecessors could not, and also in no small measure to the political wisdom which is the shaping influence on Pakistan's US policy.

Editorial Sees Change in U.S. Nuclear Policy

BK2409112994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Energy Policy"]

[Text] The government of Benazir Bhutto has clearly identified investment in the energy sector as the key to economic development. To that end, the visit at the head of a powerful delegation of potential investors and experts by US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary could go a long way towards meeting Pakistan's energy shortage as well as provide the extra power needed to project the country as a dynamic emerging market into the 21st century. Ms O'Leary's remarks in a Press Conference in Lahore on Thursday indicated that the scale of the expected American investment in Pakistan's energy sector could reach the figure of $3 billion. This translates roughly into about 3,000 MW [megawatts] of power which, in conjunction with efforts to reduce WAPDA's [Water and Power Development Authority] line and distribution losses, could in itself overcome our current 2,000 MW peak load gap. To that extent the government's policy package of incentives in the form of pricing, simplifying investment procedures, etc, cannot be faulted. However, the troubling aspect of the whole exercise remains the fact that it is based exclusively on thermal power, acknowledged to be the most expensive form of energy generation. Coupled with the generous price of 6.5 cents a unit, the question that arises is what the power generated will cost the consumer at the end of the day.

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That question legitimately leads to an examination of Ms O'Leary's statement on nuclear power generation. She was at pains to emphasise that the US has no intention of stopping nuclear power generation, which supplies 30 per cent of her own country's total energy. She went on to say that stopping nuclear power generation would be tantamount to putting a brake on the world's development. What makes this statement interesting is the fact that it is the US which put pressure on France some years ago to cancel the contract for the supply of a nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan. That plant was the key to nuclear fuel self-sufficiency if Pakistan was to embark on a credible nuclear power generation programme, which never got off the ground as a consequence. The US would argue of course that it was the risk of diversion of part of the reprocessed nuclear fuel towards nuclear weapons production that informed its policy. But that was like throwing the baby out with the bath water, since Pakistan's declared policy is that for the purposes of nuclear power generation and its concomitant fuel reprocessing, we are prepared to agree to whatever international safeguards are necessary to allay such fears. If the spirit of Ms O'Leary's statement now implies that the US has changed its mind, this can only be welcomed. In fact the hope is that the government will, if it has not already, take up this issue with the Energy Secretary. In the short term, we could even consider, if the Pressler Amendment and sensitivity on nuclear proliferation does not allow the supply of a reprocessing plant, that nuclear fuel be imported and reprocessed abroad under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards in order not to deny us the benefits of nuclear energy, the cheapest form of power generation after hydel power. In the long run, as confidence grows regarding Pakistan's peaceful use of nuclear energy, it may even pave the way for the supply of a reprocessing plant. While the government's focus on energy as the key to economic development is correct, it appears that the exclusive concentration on putting all our eggs in the basket of thermal generation has ignored the very real need for Pakistan to also explore alternative sources of energy such as (in ascending order of cost) hydel, nuclear, coal and renewable sources. In the absence of the Kalabagh Dam, it is not clear what if any plan has been drawn up for exploiting the considerable residual hydel potential of the country. Our coal reserves deserve more attention, with the possibility of inducting the technology to overcome the pollution risk of using our relatively low grade coal for power generation. In tandem, a serious scientific endeavour to develop renewable sources such as solar, wind, tides, etc, which could prove comparable in cost to taking energy from the national grid to remote areas, should be energetically explored. An energy-deficient country like Pakistan can hardly afford to leave any stone unturned if we are to turn the corner towards economic prosperity.

'New Economic Dimension' to U.S. Ties Seen

BK2509121094 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Adding a New Dimension"]

[Text] The visiting delegation of some 80 US businessmen have promised around $3 billion worth of investment in Pakistan's energy sector. This investment is expected to rise to $5 billion as more follow-up investment would pour in. The visiting businessmen are expected to sign at least seven agreements for setting up power generation plants. This huge US investment is a sign of trust in Pakistan's efforts to build an attractive investment climate in its power sector. This investment would add a new economic dimension to Pak-US relations, which have, hitherto, been based mainly on security and military interests. It is good to see a widening of the economic base between the two countries to be sustained by the private sector of both. Anything that raises stakes in peace should be supported to the last extent. Uptill now Pak-US relations have been conducted by their respective governments. With the inclusion of private businessmen, the governments of both countries will become more considerate of economic sensitivities in bilateral relations and to that extent ties will be further strengthened.

Against the prospect of increased US investment in Pakistan, the US President has invited Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to visit the USA. This visit would be of crucial significance in the context of the countries' differing perceptions on various issues affecting South Asia. The strategic importance of this region cannot be over-emphasised, and the USA, being the only superpower, has a lot of stakes in peace in this area. The United States is pressing regional states to accept some universally accepted principles of non-proliferation, arms control and human rights. Pakistan fully subscribes to the principle of nuclear non-proliferation and in this connection has made eight different proposals to free South Asia of nuclear arms. It is ready to practise arms control, and is not only observing but asking others also to respect human rights. What Pakistan is not ready to accept is discrimination in implementation of these principles and to be subjected to the one-sided Pressler Amendment. Pakistan's security perception is invariably affected by Indian hegemonic postures. Why should Pakistan be singled out to bear the pressure on non-proliferation and why should India be allowed to get away not only with the violation of the principle of non-proliferation, but also with massive human rights abuses in Held Kashmir? Avoiding politically sensitive issues to concentrate on economic ones may be advantageous in the short run, but solving problem on the long term basic requires a fair, honest and principled approach. Principles are principles as long as they are applied without considerations, otherwise they become counter-productive. The principles that the US is upholding should also be applied to India which is defying them so shamelessly by setting dangerous trends of a nuclear and missiles race in the sub-continent, forcing others to follow suit, and accentuating poverty in a region where 25 percent of world population lives in abject conditions. How dangerous poverty can be for world peace, American needs not to be told. India must

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be restrained from its further augmenting its already dangerously swollen arsenal before it is too late.

Minister Supports Dialogue To Solve F-16 Issue

BK2609112494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Talks have been continuing between Pakistan and the United States for the delivery of 71 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan in accordance with their agreement. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, in response to identical adjournment motions in the Senate this morning sought to be moved by Dr. Mohammad Rehan and Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar Bhinder.

The defense minister said the government has weighed other options and finally has come to the conclusion that dialogue is the best way to resolve the dispute and difficulties. He pointed out that the United States has not so far categorically refused to execute the deal.

The leader of the opposition in the house, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, suggested adoption of a consensus resolution to express national stand on the issue. Chairman Wasim Sajjad asked him to work out details with the leader of the house, Malik Mohammad Qasim, in this connection. The chair held the motions inadmissible on the grounds that dialogue was continuing with the United States.

Bhutto Holds Talks With French Defense Minister

BK2209143894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The defense minister of France, Mr. Francois Leotard, called on the prime minister in Islamabad today. He informed the prime minister that the French Government desires to develop cooperation with Pakistan in a number of spheres. He said the people of France have tremendous regard for the prime minister and her struggle for restoration of democracy.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hoped that the visit of the high- powered delegation of French businessmen in November will lead to considerable French investment in Pakistan.

The French defense minister on behalf of his government and people of France extended an invitation to the prime minister of Pakistan to visit France. The prime minister accepted the invitation.

President Returns From Visits to Kuwait, Turkey

BK2409090194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari returned to Islamabad early this morning after a week-long official visit to Kuwait and Turkey. He also performed a minor pilgrimage. During his detailed talks with Kuwaiti and Turkish leaders, the president discussed bilateral relations and international affairs of mutual interest. Businessmen from the two countries who called on the president expressed their deep interest in increasing commercial ties with Pakistan and investing in various projects.

Radio Pakistan representative Abdul Hamid reports that the leaders of both Kuwait and Turkey assured President Leghari of their total support for Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. The Turkish president condemned the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He announced that what is unacceptable to Pakistan is also unacceptable to Turkey. He said that Turkey will be a member of the Islamic Conference Organization's coordination group on Kashmir at the United Nations, and it will work actively for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

President Leghari also addressed members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara and thanked Turkey for its total support for Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. He also thanked the Turkish parliament for setting up a Committee on Human Rights. The committee visited India to review human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The president said that if this committee had been permitted to visit occupied Kashmir, the members of the committee would have been able to make their own direct study of the brutal oppression of the Kashmiri people. The president said the 600,000 Indian troops deployed in occupied Kashmir have massacred thousands of people in cold blood and have crippled thousands of others. More than 20,000 Kashmiri youths have been detained in prisons. The president said India should accept the truth that it cannot extinguish the flames of freedom burning in the minds of the Kashmiri people.

Speaking on the occasion, Husamettin Cinduruk, speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, reaffirmed Turkey's unflinching support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and condemned the gross human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Turkish opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz called on the president in Istanbul yesterday. They discussed measures for cooperation between the two countries in the economic field. Yilmaz reaffirmed Turkey's complete support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

A Turkish trade delegation also called on the president in Istanbul. The president informed them that the investment climate in Pakistan is extremely favorable because of the present government's solid steps to strengthen the national economy. The Turkish traders expressed great interest in establishing further fruitful economic relations with Pakistan.

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